SATURDAY
March 21, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 68

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

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NEW BENCH SOON

CJI recuses from EC appointments case

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THREADS IN TURMOIL

War in Iran weighs on Kashmir's weavers

NEWS » PAGE 16

NCERT CURRICULUM

Former SC judge, senior advocate join panel

NEWS » PAGE 18

DEBATE OVER SECTION 39A

From green to grey, in Goa

Villagers raise concerns over planning, consent, environmental impact

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 15

INDIAN OPEN SQUASH

Anahat, Tanvi move into the semifinals

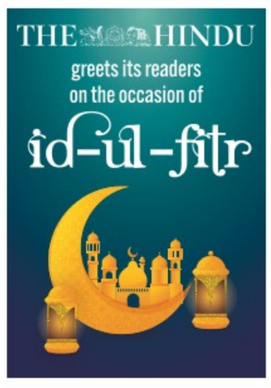
SPORT » PAGE 21

NEARBY

Congress faces internal rift over bypoll candidates

BENGALURU
Factional politics is likely to intensify within the ruling Congress ahead of bypolls to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies, as the party struggles to arrive at a consensus on candidates.

» PAGE 12



PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

Iran steps up attacks on Israel, Gulf energy sites

Iran insists it will deny its enemies their security and says it is building missiles despite strikes that have killed top leaders; country fires on Israel and launches drone strikes on a Kuwaiti oil refinery

Associated Press
DUBAI

Iran defiantly insisted on Friday that it would deny its enemies their security and that it was still building missiles nearly three weeks into U.S.-Israeli strikes that have killed a slew of Tehran's top leaders and hammered its weapons and energy industries.

Iran fired on Israel and energy sites in neighbouring Gulf Arab states as many in the region marked one of the holiest days on the Muslim calendar. Two waves of Iranian drones attacked a Kuwaiti oil refinery early Friday, sparking a fire. The Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, which can process some 7,30,000 barrels of oil a day, is one of the largest in West Asia.

The Mina Al-Ahmadi refinery, which can process more than seven lakh barrels of oil a day, is one of the largest in West Asia. AP

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said a fire broke out after shrapnel from an intercepted projectile landed on a warehouse, and Saudi Arabia reported shooting down drones targeting its oil-rich Eastern Province.

With little information coming out of Iran, it was not clear how much damage its arms, nuclear or energy facilities have sustained since the war began or even who was in charge of the country. But Iran has shown it is capable of attacks that are choking off oil supplies and scrambling the global economy.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

Indian killed in missile strike

NEW DELHI
An Indian citizen died in an Iranian missile strike that hit Riyadh on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy said on Friday. Sources said that the Indian national is believed to have died after being hit by missile debris. » PAGE 16

Price of premium petrol rises by ₹2

NEW DELHI
In what could be the first sign of cracks due to the fiscal stress brought on by global oil prices, Indian Oil-Marketing Companies raised the price of the premium variant of petrol by ₹2-₹3 and industrial diesel by ₹22 per litre. » PAGE 16

CM's Office should not entertain posting, transfer requests: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) should not entertain requests for transfer and postings directly and the Chief Minister should not interfere with the transfer of employees working in the government and its public sector undertakings, the High Court has said.

"The highest authority of the State [CM] has better and more important work to perform than be interfering with transfers and postings of employees of the State government and its undertakings," the court observed.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf, made these observations while disposing of an appeal, filed by Chethan S., an assistant engineer working with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (Bescom).

He had challenged the single judge's September 9, 2024, order of dismissing his petition, in which he had taken exception to Bescom not posting him to a particular sub-division despite receiving the Chief Minister's approval on June 24 to his request for such a posting.

"We are of the considered view that the transfers and postings of the employees should be left to the administrative departments concerned and the highest authority of the State should not devote his time in such matters nor should interfere with the transfers and postings of employees working within the government and government undertakings," the Bench observed while taking note of the transfer guidelines, which specifies obtaining the Chief Minister's approvals in cases of premature and delayed transfers through the official channel.

"We are of the opinion that no request for transfer and posting should be entertained by the CMO directly. The matter should end at the level of the department itself," the Bench observed.

Meanwhile, the Bench took note of an affidavit filed by Chief Secretary, Shalini Rajneesh, on March 3, 2026, in which she categorically stated that "the notes received from the CMO are only recommendatory in nature and not transfer orders or approval for transfers".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

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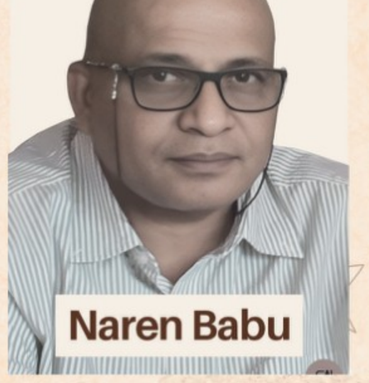
2035: ₹25,000/sq.ft



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> Before it was more about who is the bravest at braking the latest. Now there's a bit more of a strategic mind, because every boost button activation you're going to pay the price big time after that
> **CHARLES LECLERC**

Peering into F1's crystal ball: the early-season signs that bear watching

GETTY IMAGES

Two races into the sport's new era, the radical technical overhaul continues to be criticised, defended and discussed. What has worked so far and what hasn't? Is Mercedes' superiority likely to make 2026 a dull season? How many overtakes are too many? And why are some drivers comparing the racing to a video game?

S. Dipak Ragav

Every time there is a major regulatory change in Formula One, there are the usual voices of resistance, claiming the changes are against the spirit of the sport, diluting what it used to be.

It is odd, considering that technological evolution has been in the sport's DNA since its inception. The idea that F1 had halcyon days when racing was at its purest is misplaced.

So, heading into the 2026 season, there were the usual concerns, given the drastic overhaul on the engine side, with the hybrid system now mandating 50% electric power. There were fears that the cars would be energy-starved and that the spectacle would diminish.

Two races in, we have had a taste of what the new order looks like, given that the races in Melbourne and Shanghai were at the opposite ends of the energy spectrum.

While it is difficult to make sweeping conclusions about how the season will unfold, it is possible to assess what works and what doesn't. *The Hindu* takes a look at what we have learnt so far.

Qualifying needs work!

It is often tempting to see things in black and white when the reality is more nuanced. The first race in Australia was always going to be tough. The circuit has fewer braking zones than most others, making energy regeneration difficult. Without access to full power at all times, drivers can't constantly be in attack mode.

Some of those fears did play out, especially in qualifying, where the sight of cars dropping more than 30kmph made the ardent fans squirm in their seats. Qualifying is all about giving it the full beans – new tyres, low fuel and the commitment to push both man and machine to the absolute limit. It is where the new regulations really seem to hurt F1's image.

> It's not easy. You can see that all over the grid. Some cars are not even starting. It's all very complicated
> **MAX VERSTAPPEN**

Even when teams were qualifying on race fuel and tyres in the early 2000s, drivers were largely on the limit. The sport must find a way to make qualifying more challenging and spectacular.

...but the racing hasn't been bad

The first few laps of the season-opener saw an intense battle between Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Mercedes' George Russell.

Right from pre-season testing, it was evident that the Ferrari is a rocket off the line, thanks to a 'small' turbocharger design that delivers power quickly. Leclerc showed that in Melbourne when he took the lead from fourth on the grid, pipping pole-sitter Russell.

Over the next nine laps, the pair traded the lead seven times as the drivers got their heads around how to deploy battery power.

A virtual safety car and a divergence in strategy denied fans a longer battle, with Ferrari deciding not to pit its drivers, hanging them out to dry against the Mercedes, which had fresher tyres.

Despite Ferrari's competitiveness, it was clear that Mercedes had the fastest car. In the end, Russell, once he cleared the Ferrari, cantered to victory ahead of teammate Kimi Antonelli.

The race in China further allayed fears around the new cars as Leclerc and teammate Lewis Hamilton were involved in a mighty scrap for third, with the latter winning that battle to secure his maiden GP podium for Ferrari. The pair kept going wheel-to-wheel and even touched a few times. Passing was done in the corners and on braking, which made it more exciting than overtaking on the straights.

A big part of why the racing has been good so far is that the new aero rules, which have made the cars smaller and nimbler, have allowed drivers to follow each other closely without being affected by the turbulent wake from the car ahead.

Overtakes, but the right kind?

After Melbourne, F1 put out a stat saying there were 120 overtakes, almost triple of what happened (45) in the 2025 event. Although it makes for a great headline, it is a flawed metric to assess racing. In fact, too many overtakes could dilute what is supposed to be memorable, exciting, and, importantly, challenging.

The new energy requirements meant a driver would pass, using up all his battery, only to be repassed soon after when he ran out of power. It was this aspect of racing that many, before the season, feared would mar the spectacle.

A part of the Russell vs. Leclerc battle in Melbourne was down to this as the former tried to find the right place to make a move stick and then ensure he stayed ahead.

Leclerc even likened it to Mario Kart, the video game – as did Max Verstappen, who was far from impressed with how he sliced through the field to finish sixth despite starting 20th.

Currently, the teams' knowledge base is limited. Once they get on top of the energy management, it will be interesting to see how things evolve. For now, the overtakes will do, especially for the lead and meaningful positions. But too much of anything can be dangerous.

The driver trade-off

A big question is whether F1 still is the ultimate test of a driver's skill.

Battery management requires some changes in driving technique, which is a challenge.

Yet, it's unclear how much a driver can influence this under normal conditions, given that the engine control unit is mapped to the circuit for energy deployment and much of it is automated.

The driver assumes more control when he is in overtake or boost mode, but these gimmicks could alienate fans.

In the past, what separated the good from the elite was the ability to find grip where others couldn't or be brave for that fraction of a second longer.

However, now we are seeing drivers go off-throttle through high-speed sections to recharge the battery and use it on the straights.

The last thing we want is for these elite athletes to back off in exciting high-speed corners, like Maggots and Becketts at Silverstone or Blanchimont and Pouhon at Spa.

A clearer picture

The first two races have reinforced what we saw in pre-season testing. Mercedes is clearly the class of the field and has enough of an advantage to finish 1-2.

Seen in that light, it was important for Antonelli to get his first win, in China. Unless the young Italian prevents his more experienced teammate from running away with the title, the season could quickly lose interest.

Ferrari is the German marque's closest challenger, and one of the big silver linings has been that the new cars have helped Hamilton rediscover his mojo.

McLaren and Red Bull round out the top four. Audi, after a good start, has slotted alongside Alpine and Haas in the midfield.

As expected, the Honda-powered Aston Martin can't run more than a handful of laps. Worryingly, the car's vibration is injuring the driver's wrist and making it unsafe, which needs to be addressed swiftly.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	13,550	18
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,400	19
3	Novak Djokovic	38	5,370	18
4	Alexander Zverev	28	4,905	22
5	Lorenzo Musetti	24	4,365	22
6	Alex de Minaur	27	4,185	22
7	Taylor Fritz	28	4,170	23
8	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,000	26
9	Ben Shelton	23	3,860	22
10	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,610	24
11	Alexander Bublik	28	3,385	25
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,715	22
13	Jakub Mensik	20	2,650	22
14	Flavio Cobolli	23	2,520	29
15	Karen Khachanov	29	2,410	24

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 278 ▲ 4 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 414 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	11,025	20
2	Elena Rybakina	26	7,783	22
3	Iga Swiatek	24	7,413	20
4	Coco Gauff	22	6,748	20
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,678	22
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,180	21
7	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,232	20
8	Elina Svitolina	31	4,020	16
9	Victoria Mboko	19	3,351	21
10	Mirra Andreeva	18	3,066	20
11	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,918	26
12	Belinda Bencic	29	2,803	19
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,801	23
14	Karolina Muchova	29	2,668	16
15	Naomi Osaka	28	2,434	21

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 391 ▲ 2 spots

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 397 ▲ 71 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	31	21	7	3	61	22	39	70
2	Man. City	30	18	7	5	60	28	32	61
3	Man. United	30	15	9	6	54	41	13	54
4	Aston Villa	30	15	6	9	40	37	3	51
5	Liverpool	30	14	7	9	49	40	9	49
6	Chelsea	30	13	9	8	53	35	18	48
7	Brentford	30	13	6	11	46	42	4	45
8	Everton	30	12	7	11	34	35	-1	43
9	Newcastle	30	12	6	12	43	43	0	42
10	Bournemouth	30	9	14	7	44	46	-2	41
11	Fulham	30	12	5	13	40	43	-3	41
12	Brighton	30	10	10	10	39	36	3	40
13	Sunderland	30	10	10	10	30	35	-5	40
14	Crystal Palace	30	10	9	11	33	35	-2	39
15	Leeds United	30	7	11	12	37	48	-11	32
16	Tottenham	30	7	9	14	40	47	-7	30
17	N. Forest	30	7	8	15	28	43	-15	29
18	West Ham	30	7	8	15	36	55	-19	29
19	Burnley	30	4	8	18	32	58	-26	20
20	Wolves	31	3	8	20	24	54	-30	17

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	29	22	2	5	65	23	42	68
2	AC Milan	29	17	9	3	44	21	23	60
3	Napoli	29	18	5	6	45	30	15	59
4	Como	29	15	9	5	48	22	26	54
5	Juventus	29	15	8	6	51	28	23	53
6	Roma	29	16	3	10	39	23	16	51
7	Atalanta	29	12	11	6	40	27	13	47
8	Bologna	29	12	6	11	38	34	4	42
9	Lazio	29	10	10	9	29	28	1	40
10	Sassuolo	29	11	5	13	35	39	-4	38
11	Udinese	29	10	6	13	33	42	-9	36
12	Parma	29	8	10	11	21	36	-15	34
13	Genoa	29	8	9	12	36	40	-4	33
14	Torino	29	9	6	14	32	50	-18	33
15	Cagliari	29	7	9	13	31	41	-10	30
16	Fiorentina	29	6	10	13	34	43	-9	28
17	Lecce	29	7	6	16	21	39	-18	27
18	Cremonese	29	5	9	15	23	44	-21	24
19	Pisa	29	2	12	15	23	49	-26	18
20	Verona	29	3	9	17	22	51	-29	18

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	28	23	1	4	77	28	49	70
2	Real Madrid	28	21	3	4	60	24	36	66
3	Atletico Madrid	28	17	6	5	47	25	22	57
4	Villarreal	28	17	4	7	51	33	18	55
5	Real Betis	28	11	11	6	43	35	8	44
6	Celta Vigo	28	10	11	7	38	31	7	41
7	Real Sociedad	28	10	8	10	43	42	1	38
8	Espanyol	28	10	7	11	35	42	-7	37
9	Getafe	28	10	5	13	23	30	-7	35
10	Athletic Club	28	10	5	13	30	40	-10	35
11	Osasuna	28	9	7	12	33	35	-2	34
12	Girona	28	8	10	10	31	43	-12	34
13	Rayo Vallecano	28	7	11	10	28	34	-6	32
14	Valencia	28	8	8	12	30	42	-12	32
15	Sevilla	28	8	7	13	37	47	-10	31
16	Real Mallorca	28	7	7	14	33	45	-12	28
17	Alaves	28	7	7	14	26	38	-12	28
18	Elche	28	5	11	12	36	45	-9	26
19	Levante	28	5	8	15	30	46	-16	23
20	Real Oviedo	28	4	9	15	18	44	-26	21

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	26	21	4	1	93	25	68	67
2	Dortmund	26	17	7	2	55	26	29	58
3	Hoffenheim	26	15	5	6	54	34	20	50
4	Stuttgart	26	15	5	6	51	34	17	50
5	RB Leipzig	26	14	5	7	48	35	13	47
6	Leverkusen	26	13	6	7	49	33	16	45
7	Eintracht	26	10	8	8	49	49	0	38
8	SC Freiburg	26	9	7	10	37	43	-6	34
9	Union Berlin	26	8	7	11	31	42	-11	31
10	FC Augsburg	26	9	4	13	31	45	-14	31
11	Hamburg	26	7	9	10	29	37	-8	30
12	M'gladbach	26	7	7	12	30	43	-13	28
13	Mainz	26	6	9	11	31	41	-10	27
14	Cologne	26	6	7	13	35	44	-9	25
15	Werder	26	6	7	13	29	47	-18	25
16	St Pauli	26	6	6	14	23	42	-19	24
17	Wolfsburg	26	5	6	15	35	56	-21	21
18	Heidenheim	26	3	5	18	24	58	-34	14

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	840	840
2	Virat Kohli	791	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	756	756
4	Rohit Sharma	748	879
5	Shubman Gill	716	841
6	Babar Azam	684	894
7	Shai Hope	679	782
7	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	664	676
9	Salman Agha	664	664

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	705	775
2	Jofra Archer	649	682
3	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
4	Bernard Scholtz	630	631
5	Adil Rashid	629	671
6	Josh Hazlewood	626	725
7	Mehidy Hasan	624	722
7	Maheesh Theekshana	624	680
7	Kuldeep Yadav	624	757
10	Mitchell Santner	617	656

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Tim Seifert	734	749
8	Dewald Brevis	723	738
9	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
10	Jos Buttler	716	794

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Corbin Bosch	690	745
7	Adam Zampa	682	746
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757

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Daily serial based on novel *Aramane* launched

The Kannada serial is directed by National Award-winning film-maker Mansore, with theatre veteran B. Jayashree essaying a prominent role

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Kum. Veerabhadrappa's acclaimed novel *Aramane* has been adapted into a television serial. Kannada channel DD Chandana (Doordarshan) has launched the serial with the same name. National Award-winning film-maker Mansore is the director behind the project, with theatre veteran B. Jayashree essaying a prominent role.

The serial marks the return of a well-known literary adaptation in DD Chandana. In the past, Girish Karnad had helmed screen adaptations of Poornachandra Tejaswi's *Chidambara Rahasya*, Shantinath Desai's *Om Namo* and Devanur Mahadeva's *Kusumabale* as serials on DD Chandana.

Director 'Mansore' with actor B. Jayashree on the sets of *Aramane*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rare experiment

"I see *Aramane* as one of the rarest experiments in Kannada literature," Mansore told *The Hindu*. The *Nathicharami* (2018) director said DD Chandana had invited National Award-winning filmmakers to pitch novels that could be adapted to the small screen. "A committee was formed to review the applications, and it approved my interest to make *Aramane* into a daily tele-serial," he said.

Aramane is a historical novel set in colonial Ballari featuring British administrator Thomas Munro. Highlighting the struggles of marginalised voices, the novel is hailed for its realistic depiction of 19th-century rural society. Kum. Veerabhadrappa, popularly known as Kumvee, explores the life, culture, and conflicts of the working class. Set around Ballari district, *Aramane* blends folklore with British-era modernisation.

Magic realism

"During my discussions with Mansore, I told the director to try and make the serial closer to reality," Kumvee told *The Hindu*.

The serial marks the return of a well-known literary adaptation on DD Chandana

"It's an epic story with elements of magic realism. So, it will be challenging for the makers to adapt as it is. They might have to make some compromises, but the idea is to tell a story in an engaging fashion."

Mansore echoes Kumvee's thoughts, saying his aim is to connect with the masses without diluting the essence of the novel. "It's a 700-page, complex novel. It mixes history, mythology, and fiction. We have tried to simplify the storyline by splitting it into multiple tracks and focusing on the main characters."

Describing the challenges of adapting *Aramane*, Mansore said, "It's a 200-year-old story. So, it's not easy to find a house or set that depicts the time period. We had to work on the costume design that represents the era."

Kumvee said he is curious to see how the audience interprets the serial. "Be it any adaptation, the director takes a thread from the original story and builds his screenplay. Eventually, the audience has the full freedom to judge the translation from page to screen," he said, adding that it's important that the television industry supplies quality entertainment in the mainstream setup.

Set in Ballari

Explaining why the novel is unique, Mansore said, "We have had novels based in Mysuru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi and Malenadu. But a popular work with Ballari as the background is rare. For me, *Aramane* is as important as *Kusumabale*. The serial is an important step in the Kannada small screen space." The serial, based on the Sahitya Academy-winning novel, is currently being telecast on DD Chandana from Monday to Friday at 7.30 pm.

From Page One

CM's office should not entertain posting, transfer requests: HC

"It is for the department concerned to scrutinise such recommendations based on the respective Cadre and Recruitment Rules and General Transfer Guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms ," the Chief Secretary had clarified in her affidavit.

Single judge's remarks

The Bench made these observations in addition to the remarks made by the single judge, who had noted that the High Court had come across several letters/orders/approvals issued by the CMO either transferring group 'B' or 'C' employees, thereby undoing the orders of transfers issued by the transferring authority of the departments concerned.

"...This generates a doubt as to whether the Chief Minister is aware of the kind of orders/approvals obtained from his office. It also gives rise to a suspicion that someone sitting in the office of the Chief Minister is mechanically issuing such orders/approvals, giving rise to heartburn amongst the employees and consequent litigation before this court," the single judge had observed.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary stated in the affidavit that the single judge's remarks were brought to the notice of the Chief Minister as was ordered by the single judge, and the office staff/officers in the Chief Minister's Office associated with handling such transfer requests had been specifically sensitised regarding concerns expressed by the judge.

Singing loudly on city metro: Young passengers deboarded, 14 penalised

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) took action after a group of youngsters allegedly created a commotion inside a metro train on the night of March 15, loudly singing songs, causing inconvenience to fellow passengers and briefly delaying train services.

According to BMRCL, the group had boarded the train at Madavara Metro Station around 10.57 p.m. after attending a concert at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre. Officials said the passengers disrupted the travel experience of others on board.

"Security personnel intervened and ensured the immediate deboarding of the individuals. They were later handed over to law enforcement authorities for further action," a BMRCL official said.

A BMRCL official says the action was taken in line with its commitment to ensuring a safe, secure, and hassle-free travel experience for all passengers. FILE PHOTO

A video of the incident has already gone viral. The clip shows a group occupying the ladies' coach, sitting on the floor and singing songs, in violation of norms. The video drew widespread criticism online.

A BMRCL official added that the action was taken in line with its commitment to ensuring a safe, secure and hassle-free travel experience for all passengers.

"Such behaviour will not be tolerated on the metro network," official added.

Based on a complaint by a BMRCL official, the Peenya police registered a Non-Cognisable Report (NCR) and made 14 passengers pay a court fine.

"Under the Karnataka Police Act, we booked a petty case and made them pay a fine. We have made them write an apology letter, along with an undertaking that they will not repeat such behaviour," the police officer said.

A viral video shows a group occupying the ladies' coach, sitting on the floor and singing songs, in violation of norms

Explaining the incident, a police official said that a group of passengers in multiple coaches of the metro were singing songs and creating public nuisance.

"The BMRCL officials intervened, brought the unruly passengers to the station, and an NCR was registered against them," official added.

CID will probe Tumakuru man's death in police custody: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Friday announced that the probe into suspicious death of a man in Tumakuru while under police detention will be handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department. Kantharaju, 50, died at Huliyaru police station on Thursday, hours after he was picked up along with four others on allegations that he was gambling with a group during Ugadi.

Police sources said the Huliyaru police detained Kantharaju near Siddarameshwara temple within their jurisdiction and brought him to the police station for questioning around 5.30 p.m. Around 8.30 p.m., he complained of respiratory issues and was sent to a nearby hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

One of the other four detainees told the media on Friday that many others were playing cards and betting, but Kantharaju and the four were not gambling. "The officers came in plainclothes in a car and picked us up. Kantharaju was kicked by one of them, and though he complained of chest pain, he was not taken to the hospital immediately," he said. Kantharaju's son lodged a complaint against the officers, claiming they were responsible for his father's death. Soon after the incident, villagers kept Kantharaju's body outside Huliyaru police station and staged a protest against the death.

Two held for illegal transportation of cattle

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Bajpe Police have arrested two persons for theft and illegal transportation of four head of cattle in Bajpe police station limits on March 18.

The police identified the accused as Nisar alias Pariwala Nisar, of Konchar, near Bajpe, and Mohammed Jamaluddin alias Jamal, 24, of Ulaibettu village in Mangaluru taluk.

A case was registered against both the accused under the relevant sections.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 03-MYS-2026
Dated: 13.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.#	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Infra-Red Thermo Vision Camera **(Tender No. L9265178)**	**Rs. 51,71,834.00**
2	100 KVA Dry Type Compact Substation (CSS) **(Tender No. L92560598)**	**Rs. 57,06,125.00**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 06.04.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager/ Mysuru
PUB/1002/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2025-26/102
Dated: 11.03.2026

Sl.#	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	Additional High Mast at Station Yards over Mysuru Division.	**Rs. 2,80,44,427/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01.04.2026**
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2025-26/103
Dated: 13.02.2026

2	(Re-Tender) AMC for Air Conditioners over Mysuru Division for a period of 3 years.	**Rs. 29,22,739.44/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.04.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/ Mysuru
PUB/1006/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Notice Inviting E-Tender
E-tenders are invited from reputed, experienced contractors, Qualifies Minimum Eligibility Criteria and having Electrical Contractor license by Chief Workshop Manager Coach Rehabilitation Workshop West Central Railway Nishatpura Bhopal for and on behalf of President of India for the under mentioned works **TenderNotice No.**:WCR/CRWS/BPL/EL/T/2025/12 Date:09.3.2026, **Name of work:** Outsourcing of electrical activities of Non AC and AC coaches at CRWS Bhopal for FY 2026-27 / 2027-28. **Cost of work :** Rs. 1,00,32,284.94/-, **Cost of tender form** : 0.00, **Bid Security** : Rs. 2,00,200/-, **Completion Period of work** : 24 Months, **Date of submission** : 06.04.2026 : Upto 15.15 Hrs., **Date of opening** : 06.04.2026 After 15:15 Hrs. Detailed information about tender and tender format is available at Govt. Of India website www.irens.gov.in. Tender notice is available at notice board of the office of Chief Workshop Manager, (Electrical branch) Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, Nishatpura, Bhopal.
Sd./-
For Chief Workshop Manager, Coach Rehabilitation Workshop, W.C.R, Nishatpura, Bhopal.
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri. PRASHANTH P. GOWDA** S/o **Sri. Puttappa Gowda,** residing at: Gujjina Kodige, Sarala, Shivamogga-577432.
Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.70/1, (PID No.49-38-70/1) and Municipal No.70/2 (PID No.49-38-70/2), both measuring East to West 65ft and North to South 18ft, situated at Ramakrishna Mutt Layout, Gavipuram Guttahalli, Bangalore and bounded on:
East by : Property of Boraiah,
West by : Road,
North by : Property No.70/A, (Item No.2 property),
South by : Property of Muniyappa.
Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.70/A, PID No.49-38-70/A, measuring East to West 60ft and North to South 25ft, situated at Ramakrishna Mutt Layout, Gavipuram Guttahalli, Bangalore and bounded on:
East by : Property of Boraiah,
West by : Road,
North by : Private Property,
South by : Property No.70/1 & 70/2 (Item No.1 property).
Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004.

Land Ports Authority of India
(A statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Management-II, Government of India)
Appointment of Member (Finance) in the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)
Applications are invited by the Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to fill up the post of **Member** (**Finance**) of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), under the Land Port Authority of India Act, 2010 (31 of 2010).
2. The details and other terms & conditions are available on the website of the Ministry of Home Affairs at http://mha.gov.in and http://lpai.gov.in
3. Last date for receiving applicaitons is 30th April, 2026 (applicaitons received after this date will not be considered).
4. Address for sending applications is as below:
Shri Ajay Kumar Sah, Under Secretary (ICP),
Room No. 20, 2nd Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
Department of Border Management, MHA, New Delhi-110001.
Email- akash.sah@nic.in
cbc 19142/11/0022/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is issued on behalf of My clients **1.Sri.Rajesh s/o K.M.Srinivas, 2.Sri.Ramesh s/o K.M.Srinivas, 3.Smt.Varalakshmi.B.R W/o K.M.Srinivas,** to bring the notice of the general public that, they are intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri.Manjunatha s/o Late Venkatesh.**
If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **No.99,** in Katha No.5, presently BWCC E-Property No.99, EPID No.8527805032, property Katha PID No.55-725-99, Situated at **KADRENAHALLI JANATHA CALONY, KADRENAHALLI Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore-560070** now comes under the Limits of Bangalore West City Corporation, and Corporation old Ward No.55 now new Ward No.181-Kumarswamy Layout, Bangalore, measuring east to west **26 feet** and north to south **26 feet,** in all measuring **676 Sq.ft.,** along with Ground, First, Second Third & Fourth Floors of RCC Roofed Houses are thereon and bounded on :-
East by : Property of 24-2, West by : Road, North by : Other Property, South by : Property No.98.
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

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RECRUITMENT NOTICE
Advertisement No: ICTS-Notice-2026/01 **Date: 21 March 2026**
The Centre is looking for highly motivated and self-driven individuals for an appointment for the following post at its Bengaluru Campus.

Sl No.	Position	Section	No. of posts	Upper age limit (as on 1st January 2026)	Consolidated Monthly Emoluments	Apply online/ Walk-in date
1	Project Scientific Assistant B	IT	1	28	63,900	Apply online

Interested candidates should apply only ONLINE latest by **12 April 2026.** For more information, please visit the website **www.icts.res.in.**
Establishment Section

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शुद्धिपत्र/CORRIGENDUM
यह सूचना लॉजिस्टिक्स कर्मियों की भर्ती हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन (46वें भारतीय अंटार्कटिक अभियान, 2026–2028) के संदर्भ में है। निम्नलिखित संशोधन किए जाएं:
This is with reference to the advertisement published for recruitment of Logistics Personnel for the 46th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) for the season 2026–2028. The following corrections may please be noted:
1. **पृष्ठ संख्या 3**
हिंदी संस्करण में *योग्यता एवं अनुभव* के अंतर्गत **CRO (क्रेन ऑपरेटर)** का क्रमांक गलत रूप से **4** अंकित है। सही क्रमांक **6** होगा।
Page No. 3
In the Hindi version under *Qualification and Experience*, the Sr. No. for **CRO (Crane Operator)** has been incorrectly mentioned as **4**. The correct Sr. No. should be **6**.
2. **पृष्ठ संख्या 4**
निम्नलिखित पदों का क्रम आपस में परिवर्तित है:
क्रमांक 13 – ROP (रेडियो/वायरलेस ऑपरेटर) तथा **क्रमांक 14 – ISA (इन्वेंटरी एवं स्टोर्स सहायक)**
सही क्रम इस प्रकार होगा:
क्रमांक 13 – ISA (इन्वेंटरी एवं स्टोर्स सहायक) तथा **क्रमांक 14 – ROP (रेडियो/वायरलेस ऑपरेटर)**
Page No. 4
The positions listed as:
Sr. No. 13 – ROP (Radio/Wireless Operator) and **Sr. No. 14 – ISA (Inventory & Stores Assistant)** stand interchanged.
The correct order should be:
Sr. No. 13 – ISA (Inventory & Stores Assistant) and **Sr. No. 14 – ROP (Radio/Wireless Operator)**
अन्य सभी विवरण यथावत रहेंगे। यह शुद्धिपत्र मूल विज्ञापन के साथ पढ़ा जाए, जो एनसीपीओआर की वेबसाइट www.ncpor.res.in पर उपलब्ध है।
All other contents of the advertisement remain unchanged. This corrigendum may be read in conjunction with the original advertisement available on the NCPOR website www.ncpor.res.in
Advt No:NCPOR/2026/03
For & on behalf of **Director, NCPOR**

Indian archery has no missing pieces; they only have to be managed differently

Turkiye head coach Yusuf Ergin played an instrumental role in his country winning its first Olympic archery medal. In India recently to train coaches, Ergin got a close look at the sport in the country. He discusses what he observed, how India can end its Olympic drought, which Indian archers have impressed him and why hiring foreign coaches isn't a silver bullet

INTERVIEW

Yusuf Ergin

Y.B. Sarangi

Turkiye head coach Yusuf Goktug Ergin made his mark when he transformed the recurve archery scene in his country to produce Olympic and World Championship medallists.

Ergin, who represented Turkiye at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, shot into the limelight when his ward Mete Gazoz became the first Turkish archer to secure an Olympic medal by winning the men's individual gold at Tokyo 2020. Gazoz, who became a World champion in 2023, joined hands with Berkim Tumer and Abdullah Yildirmis to claim the men's team bronze at Paris 2024.

Having tasted success with his training methodology, the 41-year-old recurve coach, who is also the chairman of World Archery's Coaches Committee, does not mind sharing his knowledge for the benefit of coaches and archers across the globe. With Indian archery looking to break its Olympics jinx at Los Angeles 2028, the Archery Association of India (AAI) recently invited Ergin to train its coaches at a workshop in Jaipur. Ergin carved out some time for *The Hindu* to speak about his coaching philosophy and his perspective on Indian archery. Excerpts:

What is your impression of Indian archery and its coaches?

I have been following them for many years, because we are competing against each other in different competitions. They have great ambitions, are always ready to win. They are working so hard, dedicating their lives. In India, what I see is great. There are plenty of coaches ready to share their experience. They are ready to upgrade their knowledge and serve their country.

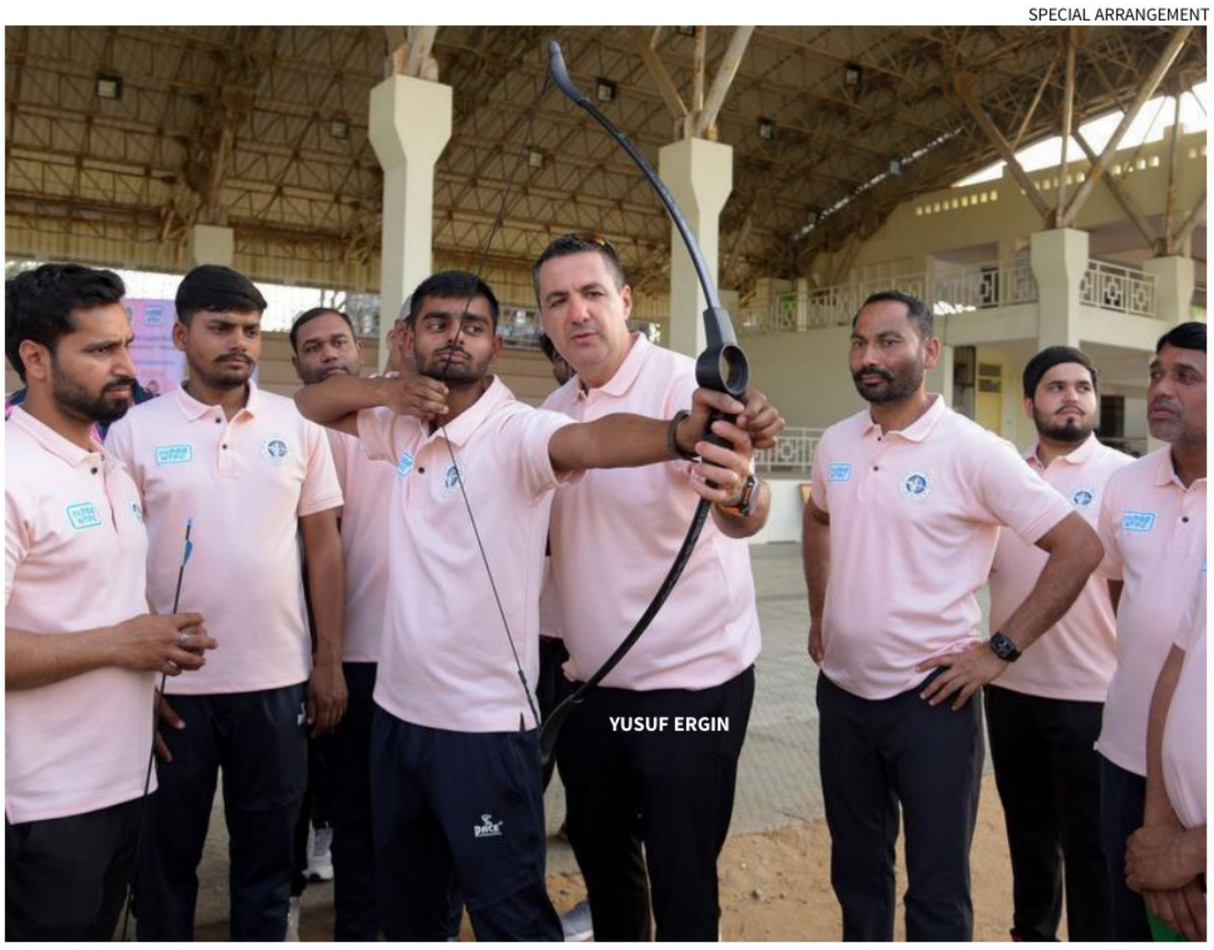
Why aren't Indian archers winning medals in the Olympics?

All necessary things are already there. Only, it seems, the pieces have to be managed differently than they have been managed until now. India doesn't have any missing part to get the medal.

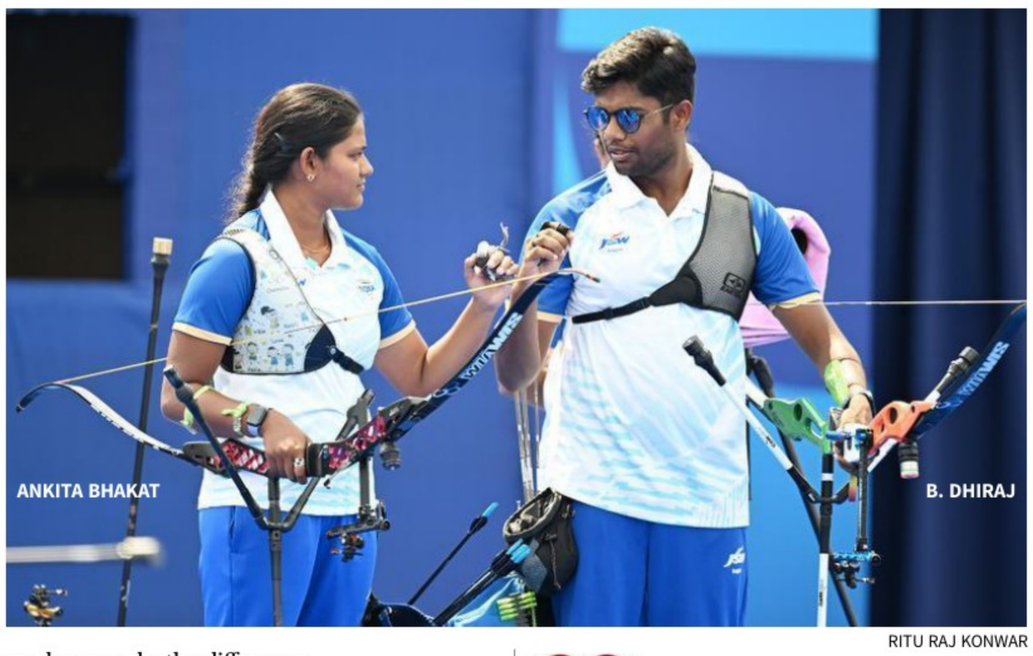
For winning high-level medals, how much of the preparation is mental?

For a high-level medal, one needs 80-85% of mental preparation. I always tell my archers, talent is [the reason why] they are in such a big pool, but when they compete internationally everybody is talented. To overcome the talented people, you should have something different. Everybody can do the physical work, but mental work can make the difference.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



> India is one of the strongest countries. They have every medal, except for the Olympics. It was a missing part for us too. After we got our first gold in Tokyo, it has become much easier for us



RITU RAJ KONWAR

Do you advise that training should include both skills and mental training?

Mental training has to be part of your preparation all the time. It shouldn't be a kind of separated programme. Mental training has to be part of physical and power training, technical and endurance work. When you are working on scores and performance, mental training has to run inside. When you plan your training programme, mental training has to be part of it.

Do you think India needs Korean coaches to win an Olympic medal? What is your experience in Turkiye?

I have the experience of working with Korean, Italian, Georgian and Soviet coaches. Every country has different kinds of dynamics. My philosophy is if India or any other country uses their own resources, if they educate their own coaches, it will be much easier to get success. A foreign coach can do a great job and bring some success, but the important point is legacy. All the coaches are working for themselves. When they leave a country, they should leave something back. Most of the time, the transition doesn't work. I'm so glad the AAI is now doing a really great job. They are focused on their own coaches, trying to educate them and improve their knowledge. This would have a much bigger effect than bringing a foreign coach to manage the national team.

> My philosophy is if India or any other country uses their own resources, if they educate their own coaches, it will be much easier to get success. This would have a much bigger effect than bringing a foreign coach to manage the national team

Do you think India can learn something from Turkiye and implement that here to produce top medallists?

Every country and culture has different kinds of dynamics. I'm here to share what we did in Turkiye. I expect all Indian coaches will get into it and convert it to make it suitable for India. I wouldn't say I'm here to teach them. I'm here to share. And if they share, this exchange will be beneficial for both of us. India is one of the strongest countries in the world. They have every medal, except for the Olympics. It was a missing part for us too before Tokyo. After we got our first gold in Tokyo, it has become much easier for us.

India's compound archers are winning medals consistently at the top level. The junior archers are also doing well. Do you have any ideas why the senior recurve archers are lagging a bit?

Of course, I have some ideas, but I respect my colleagues. My coach friends are working really hard. They should have some solutions. I try to share my knowledge and experience. They will understand and realise what needs to be improved and what can be done better. I don't want to specify anything because I'm following them from thousands of kilometres away. I see them in competitions and don't know what's going on in the training exactly. What I see in the competition, it's not that bad.

India (Ankita Bhakat and B. Dhiraj) finished fourth in the mixed team event at the Paris Olympics. Where do you think they could have done better in that bronze medal match?

In that match, there were a lot of breaking points. But in the dynamics of the day, it was different. It was a bit about the opponents too. They were so close to getting into the final [they led 2-0 after the first set of the semifinal against the eventual gold medallist Korean pair of Lim Sihyeon and Kim Woojin]. It would have been a surprise for none of us if India [had] won the gold. It's not a surprise they finished fourth. All the teams were so strong. There were at least three breaking points during the [bronze medal] match [against USA's Casey Kaufhold and Brady Ellison]. But none of them were related to the coaches or the archers. It's just timing and the dynamics of the day.

What is your impression of the inaugural Archery Premier League in India?

I love the system and the type of competition. It brings a kind of excitement into archery. Finally, someone has looked out of the box. The matches were so exciting and were of high level. Because of the type of the competition and the time limit, coaches were not able to guide as much as we expected. The rest of the format is great. I believe it will continue and some other countries will follow it.

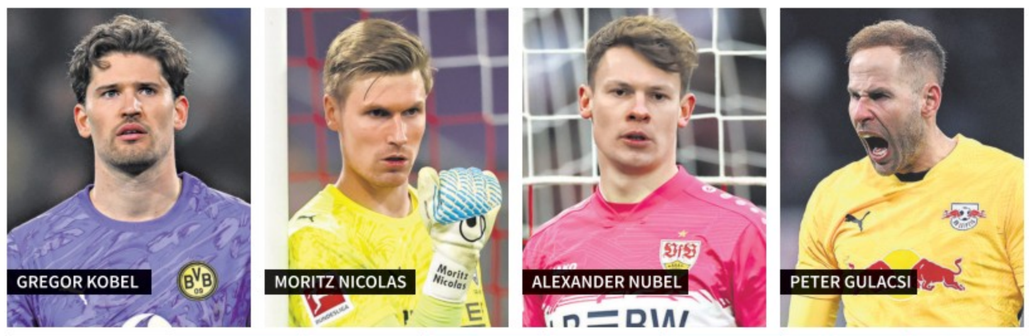
Any Indian archers who remind you of your ward Mete Gazoz, a World and Olympic champion?

There are a couple of archers. Atanu Das is doing a great job. He always looks so close to winning. In any competition, he looks so calm and strong. The [other] name is B. Dhiraj. He is also so calm. I would say Atanu would be one of the biggest favourites for winning any medal.

GAME THEORY

Top shot-stoppers in Bundesliga 2025-26

We take a look at how often goalkeepers in Germany's top flight have saved shots on target and kept clean sheets so far this season



Goalkeeper	Club	Games	Shots on target faced	Saves	Save%	Clean sheets	Clean sheet %
Gregor Kobel	Dortmund	26	89	66	74.2	12	46.2
Moritz Nicolas	Gladbach	26	137	98	71.5	10	38.5
Alexander Nubel	Stuttgart	26	103	76	73.8	10	38.5
Peter Gulacsi	RB Leipzig	22	78	51	66.7	9	40.9
Oliver Baumann	Hoffenheim	26	106	76	71.7	6	23.1
Daniel Fernandes	Hamburger	26	106	75	68.9	6	23.1
Manuel Neuer	Bayern	19	42	26	61.9	6	31.6
Michael Zetterer	Eintracht	14	43	28	65.1	6	46.2
Noah Atubolu	Freiburg	26	117	75	63.2	5	19.2
Finn Dahmen	Augsburg	26	109	71	64.2	5	19.2
Frederik Ronnow	Union Berlin	25	103	65	65	5	20
Nikola Vasilj	St Pauli	26	129	91	69	5	19.2
Mio Backhaus	Werder	24	110	71	64.5	4	16.7
Mark Flekken	Leverkusen	17	81	59	72.8	4	23.5
Daniel Batz	Mainz 05	14	67	50	74.6	3	21.4
Janis Blaswich	Leverkusen	10	41	33	80.5	3	33.3
Marvin Schwabe	Koln	26	115	76	64.3	3	11.5
Kaua Santos	Eintracht	13	68	37	54.4	2	15.4
Kamil Grabara	Wolfsburg	26	140	92	63.6	1	3.8
Diant Ramaj	Heidenheim	25	135	84	62.2	0	0

SOURCE: FBREF.COM

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Coast to coast

Tirreno-Adriatico — nicknamed the 'Race of the Two Seas' — is an elite road cycling stage race in Italy, with riders navigating a course between the Tyrrhenian and Adriatic coasts.

A part of the UCI World Tour, cycling's highest level of professional men's races, the event has a distinctly marine theme — never mind this image of the peloton climbing down Sassotetto (1,582m).

Since 2010, the overall winner has been presented with a spectacular gilded trident, the weapon associated with Neptune, the Roman god of the sea. It is even named the Sea Master Trophy. What's more, in the days leading up to the race, the trophy is ceremonially raised from the Tyrrhenian Sea by divers of the Italian Coast Guard. And if that weren't enough, the leader of the general classification wears a light blue jersey.

Created in 1966 by Lazio-based cycling club Forze Sportive Romane, Tirreno-Adriatico has come to be regarded as important preparation for the Giro d'Italia. Thanks to its mountain stages in the Apennines, many Grand Tour specialists use it as an early-season test.

Week-long green campaign to mark Earth Hour anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

WWF-India's Karnataka office, to mark the 20th anniversary of Earth House, will hold a week-long public engagement from March 21 to 28. The activities include a "60 Species in 60 Minutes" trail at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, a book reading at Cubbon Park, and a plogging drive near the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. It concludes with a public performance at Orion Mall. It will culminate in the global lights-off hour on March 28.

IIMB achieves record high placements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has said that the institute has recorded its largest-ever placement cycle, with 596 students from the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA) Class of 2024-26 securing 664 offers from 177 firms across final and lateral placements.

Management consulting emerged as the top career choice, accounting for 45% of the total offers, followed by technology or product management roles at 15% and investment banking at 11%. The institute saw a strong influx of new recruiters, with for around 35% of participating firms.

The institute reported strong participation across sectors, including FMCG, retail, e-commerce, fintech, healthcare, manufacturing, and conglomerates. In the consulting domain, 24 firms together made 267 offers, while the finance, banking, and fintech segment recorded 68 offers from 38 firms, IIMB said.

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Mother of three murdered by stalker

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have arrested a 35-year-old mechanic for allegedly murdering a mother of three for reportedly rejecting his advances in west Bengaluru's Gangondanahalli on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Hafiz and deceased as Firdos Banu, 34, a resident of Gangondanahalli. She is survived by her husband and three sons aged 14, 12, and 5.

According to the complaint lodged by Banu's sister, she had been working as a househelp. Hafiz had allegedly been stalking Banu while she returned home from work and proposed to her, according to the FIR.

"I had even warned him against stalking my sister," Banu's sister told the police.

On Thursday, around 3.30 p.m., Hafiz allegedly waylaid Banu while she was walking back home and spoke to her. Subsequently, he pulled out a knife and attacked her.

The police said that Banu sustained severe injuries.

In the melee, Hafiz suffered injuries to his palm and was admitted to a hospital in Kaval Byrasandra. He was arrested from the hospital the same day, the investigator said.

The Chandra Layout police have booked Hafiz under BNS Section 103(1) for murder.

Footpath and parking policy, ward-wise allocation on cards

According to sources in the corporation, all five civic bodies will present their budgets in the last week of March; the total outlay is expected to cross ₹20,000 crore, according to draft allocations

CIVIC BUDGET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a meeting with officials and Bengaluru's legislators at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. ANI

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development incharge D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said that they have decided to frame a new footpath policy for the city, prioritising pedestrian movement and safety.

Mr. Shivakumar revealed the plan after a budget discussion convened at the Vidhana Soudha, which saw the participation of all legislators from Bengaluru, officials of the five city corporations, and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials. MLAs from Bengaluru unanimously batted for ward-wise allocation of funds in the upcoming civic body budgets.

However, major discussions were held regarding policy changes and their implementation, such as imposing hefty fines and filing FIRs against people putting up banners, as well as implementing a parking policy and towing.

C.K. Ramamurthy, MLA for Jayanagar, told *The Hindu* that legislators have demanded an allocation of ₹5 crore per ward. However, GBA sources said that Commissioners will hold a separate meeting and decide on the allocation later.

Among the major decisions, the MLAs unanimously agreed on clearing footpaths for smooth pedestrian movement. The first step towards this is the immediate announcement and implementation of strict no-vending zones along arterial and sub-arterial roads.

"We have about 60,000 registered street vendors, and 30,000 applications have been received for pushcarts. We will completely stop vending activities on footpaths or roads along arterial and sub-arterial roads," Mr. Shivakumar told mediapersons.

In addition, vendors who leave their commodities on footpaths overnight, such as tender coconut sellers, will not find them the next morning, as the corporations will take measures to clear them.

Amid the proliferation of flexes and banners across the city, a major decision has also been taken to levy hefty fines on violators who put up illegal flexes. "We have seen politicians' banners across the city, including those of Congress leaders. Henceforth, police will file FIRs and impose strict fines ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh on violators," Mr. Shivakumar said.

One of the major decisions includes implementing a parking policy. In addition, *The Hindu* has learnt from GBA sources that authorities are seriously considering imposing no-parking restrictions on arterial and sub-arterial roads during peak hours. The decision is aimed at decongesting the city, which has been a challenge due to haphazard parking by commuters. This will be taken up along with clearing abandoned vehicles parked on footpaths, according to sources.

Complementing the parking restrictions will be the resumption of towing operations in the city. Mr. Shivakumar said that all corporations have been provided at least two vehicles, and towing operations will begin soon.

However, a major hurdle in restarting towing operations was identifying locations where the police could park the towed vehicles. The issue arose after the Bengaluru police were asked to vacate the Jakkarayanakere facility, where seized vehicles had been stored for years. Following this, even police stations across Bengaluru became overcrowded with seized vehicles. Addressing this, the corporations will provide five parcels of land, reclaimed by civic bodies, to the Bengaluru Traffic Police.

According to Mr. Shivakumar, four sites have already been identified near Mittaganahalli, Bellahalli, Giddenahalli, and Sondekoppa. In a bid to decongest the city, B-SMILE has taken up the Sancharayukta project, which focuses on building roads along storm-water drains. According to sources, the GBA plans to include these stretches in the Comprehensive Development Plan and eventually in the Revised Master Plan, which will be brought out by the GBA. This will be notified soon, sources said.

Budget outlay

According to sources in the corporation, all five civic bodies will present their budgets in the last week of March. The total outlay is expected to cross ₹20,000 crore, according to draft allocations. The West City Corporation is likely to have a large allocation, as it may receive additional government support, given that it has the second-lowest revenue potential among the corporations.

The Fifth State Finance Commission had recommended that the government allocate separate funds for the West Corporation. The North corporation is expected to have the second-largest budget. However, allocations may change after the Commissioners hold a meeting with MLAs. In any case, Bengaluru's civic budget is expected to exceed last year's allocation.

Anganwadi workers to begin indefinite protest

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Association, under the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), will launch an indefinite protest in Bengaluru from March 23, demanding fulfilment of long-pending demands related to wages, service conditions, and strengthening of anganwadis across the State.

The association district president Gauramma Patil told presspersons here on Friday that Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) which completed 50 years, continued to play a key role in providing nutrition, healthcare, and pre-school education to children below six years. However, she alleged that anganwadi workers remain underpaid.

Ms. Patil demanded universal coverage of children under six years of age under the ICDS, the inclusion of anganwadi workers under minimum wages with social security benefits such as ESI and PF, and an improvement in the quality of food supplied through locally sourced nutrition.

The activist sought filling of vacancies in the posts of anganwadi workers, helpers, supervisors, and Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), and exemption of staff from non-core duties such as election-related work. She urged the timely release of funds for operational expenses.

The association has sought extension of menstrual leave and health benefits, enhancement of pension up to ₹10,000 per month for retired workers, and creation of a separate ICDS directorate.

City firm to buy German energy firm's India arm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bluspring Enterprises, a city firm which deploys over 90,000 blue-collar workers for various industries and manages infrastructure for over 1,000 enterprises across the country, has on Friday said its wholly-owned subsidiary, Bluspring New Horizon One, that focuses on industrial asset management, has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire 100% shareholding in STEAG Energy Services India (SESI) for a cash deal of ₹180 crore. The transaction is expected to close in the next 60-90 days.

SESI, owned by STEAG Power, a German energy company, offers operations and maintenance, digital solutions, and end-to-end engineering & management advisory services to the conventional and renewable power/ energy industry across India, Botswana, West Asia and other markets.

According to Bluspring Enterprises, this acquisition, via its subsidiary, will significantly enhance Bluspring's global power market position and should boost margins, EPS (earning per share), and long-term value.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAR. 21		
RISE	06:23	SET 18:30
RISE	07:49	SET 20:45
SUNDAY, MAR. 22		
RISE	06:23	SET 18:30
RISE	08:36	SET 21:46
MONDAY, MAR. 23		
RISE	06:22	SET 18:31
RISE	09:29	SET 22:50

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	34	18
Bengaluru	32	20

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32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Craze for reels leads to death of minor

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The craze for making reels has resulted in a the death of a minor boy in Hubballi.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Thursday evening at Shejwadkar Extension, a newly developed residential layout on the outskirts of the city. The deceased has been identified as Namish Sangalad, 15, a resident of Ravi Nagar and son of BJP leader Viresh Sangalad.

Police Commissioner N. Shashikumar told presspersons that Namish and his friends were reportedly making an 'action brake reel' in which brakes are applied suddenly after riding vehicles at full speed. While they were filming the act on a car and an e-scooter, the vehicles reportedly lost control and collided with each other.

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provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**

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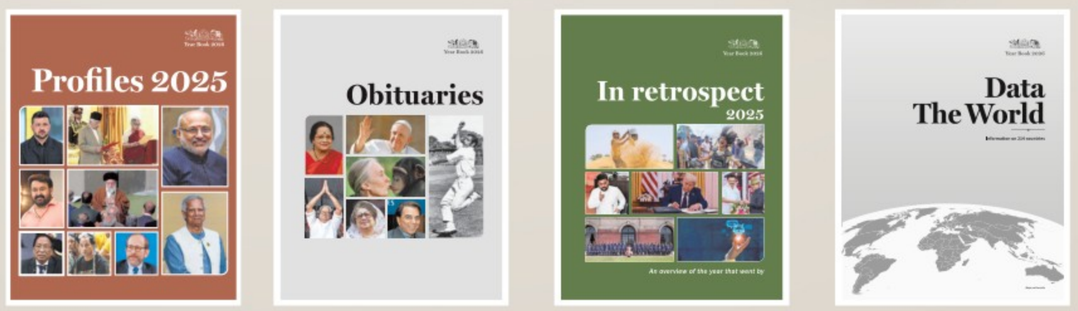

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RASHMIKA Singh Kataude, w/o; Ashwani Tanwar, r/o: No–C706, Orchid Whitefield Apt, Hagadur Road, Immadihalli, Whitefield, Blr – 560066. Have changed my name as Rashmika Singh.

I, SATISH V, s/o Vijayakumar, born on 06/02/1981, residing at K 314, Confident Atik, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru (Bangalore) – 562125, have changed my name to Satish Vijayakumar vide affidavit dated 17/03/2026 at Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

In the Court of Hon'ble Motor Accident Claims Tribunal District Judge at Mayiladudurai
I.A.I/2025 In M.C.O.P.No. /2026

Nagarajan S/o Natesan No. 45A, North Street, Panamangalam, Sirkazhi, Nagapattinam District.
... Petitioner

-Vs-

Balasubramaniyan S/o Elanchezhiyan No. 15, 1st Floor 5th Cross VP Road, Madiwala, Bangalore
... 1st Respondent

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NO: 1

Please take notice that the above claim Petition filed by the above petitioner in unnumbered MCOP. No: ..... / 2026 for claiming Compensation for injuries sustained by him in the Motor accident that took place on 04.07.2023. For numbering the above case the Hob'ble Court is numbered I.A. I/2025 regarding Sec 5 application and the case is posted for your appearance and filing your objection if any and you may appear either in person or your advocate on 08.04.2026 at 10.00 a.m. before this Hon'ble Tribunal failing which remains Exparte and the matter will be decided on merits.

A.S. Chandarasekaran
Advocates for Petitioner
Cuddalore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT JUDGE, CHITTOOR,A.P
I.A.No.84 of 2023
O.S.No.24 of 2021

Between
M.Damodara Reddy
.. Petitioner/Defendant
And:
Smt.R.Padmavathamma and others ....Respondents

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENTS 17,36,39 AND 40

To
1. M.Anantha Padmanabha Reddy, S/o late M.Doraswamy Reddy,State Bank of Mysore, OPP No.136,North While Field Main Road, Bangalore City, Karnataka.
2. O.Giriswara Reddy S/o O.Srinivasulu Reddy,18/1, 2nd Cross, Adugudi, Bangalore.
3. Paturu Jyosna Kiran D/o P.Venkata Reddy.
4. Mega Jandyala D/o late N.Eswara Chandra Vidya Sagar.
No.3 and 4 rep., by their general power of attorney agent (38th Respondent) Paturu Venkat Reddy S/o Paturu Subba Reddy, Plot No.PHS, S.R.Enclave, Sudhananda Nagar Main Road, Near NGEF layout, Sudhananda Nagar, Bangalore City,Bangalore North, Karnataka State.

Please take notice that the petitioner/defendant has filed the above I.A. to implead you as defendants **17,36,39 and 40** in the above suit. The said I.A. is posted to **16.04.2026** for your appearance. If you have got any objection you may appear on **16.04.2026 at 10.30 A.M.** either in person or through an Advocate and file your objections. If you fail to do so the matter will be decided ex-parte.

SRI V. LOKANADHA REDDY
Advocate for Petitioner/ Defendant
Place: Chittoor Dt.20-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, our client Mr. Nagegowda S (son of Mr. Sonnegowda) being the absolute owner of the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder (**"Schedule Property"**) with uninhibited rights of alienation of the Schedule Property. Any person having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, demand or interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, assignment or encumbrance of whatsoever nature or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever are hereby requested to intimate the undersigned in writing at the address mentioned below of any such claim accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication hereof. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that our Client have a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that no person has any claim over the Schedule Property and/or claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

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Place: Bengaluru

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- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

KIA named best regional airport in India and South Asia for third year

While Terminal 2 became the first in India to receive a 5-star Skytrax rating, the airport has achieved the highest Level 5 Accreditation under ACI's Airport Carbon, according to the BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been recognised as the Best Regional Airport in India and South Asia for the third consecutive year at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026.

The airport has advanced in the global airport rankings in 2026, moving up from 48 to 41.

The airport has advanced in the global airport rankings in 2026, moving up from 48 to 41. FILE PHOTO

The Skytrax World Airport Awards, widely regarded as a global benchmark for airport excellence, recognise airports that deliver outstanding customer experience across key touchpoints, including check-in, arrivals, transfers, retail, security, immigration and departures.

"This recognition builds on KIA's consistent performance across both experience and scale. The airport has received global recognition recently, including being named Best Airport in Arrivals Globally for the fourth time. While Terminal 2 became the first in India to receive a 5-star Skytrax rating, the airport has achieved the highest Level 5 Accreditation under ACI's Airport Carbon," the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) said.

Hari Marar, managing director & CEO, BIAL said, "Our continued recognition at the Skytrax World Airport Awards reflects the strength of our long-term vision and consistent focus on passenger experience. It is a testament to the collective effort of our teams and partners who continue to push the boundaries of what a modern airport experience can be".

"At KIA, our focus is on building for the future, where design, technology, and sustainability come together to create a seamless passenger journey. As we scale and strengthen our position as a key transfer hub in the region, we remain committed to continuously raising the bar on service and experience," he said.

Edward Plaisted, CEO of Skytrax, said, "Winning this award for a third consecutive year is a fantastic achievement for KIA and highlights the strong appreciation shown by passengers. Terminal 2 has strengthened the airport's reputation, and Bengaluru is now positioned among the region's most recognisable airports".

KIA served 43.82 million passengers and handled 520,985 tonnes of cargo in Calendar Year 2025.

Laser interference

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) recorded the least number of laser interference incidents in the last two years among major airports in the country. While most airports witnessed increasing incidents of laser beams being directed at aircraft, KIA, which is the third busiest airport in the country, recorded zero incidents in 2023, 10 incidents in 2024, and one incident in 2025, as per information by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol to a question in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Budget Session.

In contrast, Delhi airport reported 110 incidents in 2023, 144 in 2024, and 147 in 2025; Chennai reported zero incidents in 2023, 67 in 2024, and 54 in 2025; and Hyderabad reported zero incidents in 2023, 59 in 2024, and 38 in 2025. Even airports like Kolkata and Lucknow reported more incidents than KIA. In 2024 and 2025, Kolkata reported 72 and 44 incidents, and Lucknow reported 23 and 26 incidents, respectively.

Among Karnataka's airports, Mangaluru International Airport featured in the list with 9 incidents in 2024 and 11 in 2025.

In total, across the 21 major airports in the country, 122 were reported in 2023, and 528 and 502 were reported in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

IIIT Dharwad designated State nodal institute for Yuva Sangam programme

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Indian Institute of Information Technology, Dharwad, has been designated as the nodal institute for Karnataka under the Yuva Sangam (Phase VI) programme of Department of Higher Education under Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Union government.

The programme is implemented by the Department of Higher Education under the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' campaign.

In a release issued here, director of IIIT, Dharwd, Prof. S.R. Mahadeva Prasanna said that Karnataka had been paired with Rajasthan in this phase and selected youth from Karnataka would participate in a five-to-seven-day educational and cultural exposure visit to Rajasthan. Similarly, participants from Rajasthan would visit Karnataka as part of the exchange programme, he said.

MNIT Jaipur has been named the nodal centre for coordinating activities in Rajasthan.

The last date to apply is March 25. Interested students may apply through the official portal: https://ebsb.aicte-india.org

Multilingual poetry meet today in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sahitya Akademi is organising a multilingual poets' meet on the occasion of World Poetry Day, on Saturday, at 4.30 p.m. at Sahitya Akademii's Southern Regional Office, Opposite Kala Grama, Old Outer Ring Road, Jnanajyoti Nagar, Mallathahalli.

According to a release, M.R. Kamala (Kannada), Bindu Sajiv (Malayalam), Theanmozhiyan (Tamil), and Avineni Bhaskar (Telugu) will speak on the subject and also recite their poems.

Sahitya Akademi will also be displaying its publications for sale in the languages recognised by it, said a release.

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Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

ADVT. NO. 02/2026

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a statutory body set up under an Act of Parliament, the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, to regulate and develop the profession of Company Secretaries in India. The ICSI invites applications for the following posts at its Headquarters at New Delhi/ Noida and its other Offices:-

S. No.	Name of the Post	Location	No. of Posts	Pay Level as per 7th CPC Pay Matrix (Rs.)	Gross Salary per Annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	Max. Age (as on 01.03. 2026)
1.	**Joint Director** (Infrastructure & Building Maintenance)	(New Delhi/ Noida)	01	Level 12 (78800-209200)	19.14	50 years
2.	**Joint Director** (Corporate Communication)		01			
3.	**Deputy Director** (HRD)	(New Delhi/ Noida)	01	Level 11 (67700–208700)	16.64	40 years
4.	**Deputy Director** (Academics)		01			
5.	**Deputy Director** (Liaisoning)		01			
6.	**Deputy Director** (Student Services)		01			
7.	**Deputy Director** (Legal)		01			
8.	**Assistant Director** (Studies)	(New Delhi/ Noida)	02	Level 10 (56100–177500)	14.02	40 years
9.	**Assistant Director** (Academics)		01			
10.	**Assistant Engineer** (Infrastructure & Building Maintenance)	(New Delhi/ Kolkata/ Mumbai / Chennai)	04	Level 8 (47600–151100)	11.42	35 years
11.	**Executive** (Internal Audit)	Kolkata/ Mumbai /	02	Level 8 (47600–151100)	11.42	35 years
12.	**Executive** (Academics)	(New Delhi/ Noida)	02	Level 8 (47600–151100)	11.42	35 years

For further details viz. qualification, experience, procedure for submission of application etc., please visit website **www.icsi.edu/careers** on and from 21.03.2026. Interested candidates may **apply only through electronic mode (Online)**. Last date for submission of application (Online) is **12.04.2026.** Reservation policy will be applicable as adopted by the "ICSI" in its Service Rules. The "ICSI" reserves the right to increase/decrease or even not to fill up any posts as per its requirement.

www.icsi.edu/careers

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#T&Cs apply. Product images/renders are for representative purposes only. The actual colours/sizes of the product may vary. *In comparison to a Bajaj 500W mixer grinder.

Roadworks in city affected due to bitumen shortage

If import disruptions worsen, Bengaluru could see a complete standstill in asphalting activity, jeopardising the plans of the civic bodies to finish the works before the onset of the monsoon

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A chief engineer from one of the Bengaluru corporations explains that bitumen is used in asphalt mixes, and its scarcity has forced corporations to rethink taking up large-scale asphalting works.
K. MURALI KUMAR

The ongoing West Asia conflict has affected road repair and resurfacing works in Bengaluru as several asphalting projects in the city have come to a halt due to a disruption in bitumen supply, sources in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) confirmed to *The Hindu*.

A chief engineer from one of the Bengaluru corporations explained that bitumen is used in asphalt mixes, and its scarcity has forced corporations to rethink taking up large-scale asphalting works. They are now expecting further disruptions in the coming days.

Major importers

Two companies – Mangalore Refineries and Madras Refineries – are the major importers of bitumen, from whom Bengaluru civic contractors procure the material. Gulf countries are the primary suppliers of bitumen, as it is a byproduct of crude oil refining," the source explained.

According to a source in the North City Corporation, a tonne of the material usually costs ₹45,000, but the price has now risen to ₹60,000. "Contractors who have stock have continued work, but some have halted operations. If the disruption continues, more than 80% of asphalting works could stop within the next seven days," the officer said.

Additional costs

The main issue is that for all contract works, rates are predetermined, and concessionaires typically opt for lower bids. "If contractors purchase bitumen by paying an additional ₹15,000, their investment costs rise significantly, cutting into their profits. Hence, they halt work instead of bearing the extra expense," the officer explained.

At the same time, city corporation commissioners are hesitant to push contractors to continue work at higher costs, as it could lead to compromises in quality.

"Generally, there is concern that contractors may use low-quality mixes, which has been a major issue in Bengaluru in the past," the officer added.

If import disruptions worsen, Bengaluru could see a complete standstill in asphalting activities. This would be a setback, as commissioners were aiming to complete roadworks before the onset of the monsoon. Additionally, the Deputy Chief Minister has set an April-end deadline to complete asphalting works.

Competition likely

"Even if supplies reach Indian ports, there will be competition and intense lobbying among different states to procure the material, followed by competition within districts. So, temporary disruption is inevitable," a GBA source said.

On Friday, at the budget meeting, Gopalaiah, MLA for Kamakshipalya, raised the issue of halted asphalting works, warning that the onset of the monsoon before completion would lead to public hardship.

Premium petrol price hike hits city motorists; being sold at ₹112.35 a litre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Premium petrol users in the city are feeling the heat after fuel companies raised prices by around ₹2 to ₹2.35 a litre. At several petrol outlets, premium petrol is now being sold at approximately ₹112.35 a litre, up from ₹110.

Despite the hike in premium fuel, the price of regular petrol and diesel remains unchanged across Bengaluru. A petrol station owner in Bilekahalli said **While the price of premium fuel has been raised, the prices of regular petrol and diesel remain unchanged** that the revised rates came into effect from Friday, following a price increase by oil companies. "Only premium petrol prices have been increased, while all other fuel rates remain the same," he clarified.

The hike has drawn strong reactions from vehicle users, many of whom are reconsidering their fuel choices due to rising costs and ongoing global tensions.

Jayadev N., a vehicle user from Arekere, said, "I have been using premium petrol as it helps maintain the engine better and provides good mileage. However, with this sudden price hike, I have decided to switch to regular petrol. The increasing fuel cost is becoming difficult to manage on a daily basis".

Another commuter, Anand R. from J.P. Nagar, expressed concern over the broader economic impact. "Our salaries are not increasing, but inflation is rising every day. Due to the ongoing West Asia conflict, there is already an LPG crisis, and now this premium petrol price hike is another jolt. I feel the government is holding back a revision in all fuel prices due to upcoming elections in other States. Once that is over, everything may be hiked, which will hit the middle class hard," he said.

Civic group flags air, noise pollution by BMTC buses; seeks urgent acton

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city-based civic group, Citizens for Citizens, has raised concerns over increasing air and noise pollution caused by buses operated by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), urging authorities to implement immediate corrective measures.

The organisation says excessive honking and high-decibel horns, especially in electric buses, are adding to the problem.
K. MURALI KUMAR

In a letter addressed to the BMTC Managing Director, the organisation acknowledged the corporation's critical role in providing public transport, operating over 7,000 buses and catering to nearly 45 lakh passengers daily. However, it pointed out that many of the 5,500 diesel buses continue to emit exhaust beyond permissible limits, with some reportedly releasing thick black smoke.

The group stated in the letter that such emissions contribute to harmful pollutants, including particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide, posing serious health and environmental risks.

It recommended steps such as installing diesel particulate filters, adopting advanced emission control systems, conducting mandatory periodic checks, and improving driver training to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

Highlighting noise pollution, the organisation said excessive honking and high-decibel horns, especially in electric buses, are adding to the problem. It called for stricter enforcement of noise regulations, regular maintenance, and better sensitisation of drivers, particularly in silence zones. "While BMTC plays a vital role in keeping Bengaluru moving, there is an urgent need to address the rising air and noise pollution caused by its fleet. With better monitoring, regular maintenance, and driver sensitisation, BMTC can set an example for sustainable and responsible public transport in the city," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder and convenor of Citizens for Citizens.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि., संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा
क्रमांक : डी– 783 दिनांक : 10/3/26
निविदा सूचना संख्या – 14/2025–26
NIB Code :- PWD 25-26A6073
सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक संवेदको से ऑनलाईन माध्यम से दिनांक 06.04.2026, सायं 06:00 बजे तक निविदा आंमत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट ("http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in और http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है। उपापन की कुल अनुमानित लागत राशि रू Rs. 633.76 लाख है।
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(बी.एल.भेणिया)
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सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर
मुख्यालय बाँसवाड़ा
DIPR/C/5287/2026

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षक मथुरादास माथुर चिकित्सालय जोधपुर
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 19(2025-26) ITEM No. 1
Online Bids are invited from eligible bidders i.e. Manufacturer/Authorized Distributors/Dealers to provide various Items & Services at Mathura Das Mathur Hospital Jodhpur attached to Dr. S. N. Medical College Jodhpur as per tender terms and conditions. Tenders are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. The tender documents may be downloaded from above mentioned website. The tender document may also be seen on http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. The details of the bid are as follows: -
1. SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF 3.0 Tesla MRI Machine ALONG WITH PROVIDING INVESTIGATION RELATED SERVICES ON REVENUE SHARING BASIS ON PPP MODE
Estimated Cost - 12.00 CR
UBN - SMC2526SLRC00416
Superintendent
Mathura Das Mathur Hospital
Jodhpur
DIPR/C/5523/2026

aries
Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Manora Peak, Nainital Uttarakhand-263001
Admission to the ARIES PhD Program for the August 2026 academic session. PhD degree will be awarded by AcSIR.
Online application closes: 14 April 2026
For further details, visit:
https://aries.res.in/opportunities/phd-program
Registrar

Government of Karnataka
Assistant Conservator of Forests and Technical Assistant to Deputy Conservator of Forests Koppa Division, Koppa.
Email ID: koppaacf@gmail.com
No. ACF:Koppa:Tender:18/2025-26 Date: 13.03.2026
Brief Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited with last date of 18.04.2026 for the work of constructing Rail Barricade for 2.570 kms for prevention of wild animals menace in forest areas from Kollehalla in the limits of Chikkagrahara Zone of Koppa Forest Division for the year 2026-27. Approx. amount of work of Tender fixed is Rs. 3,66,98,577/- (Excluding G.S.T.). Participate in the e-Tender subject to all conditions in the Tender Notification of this office dated 13.03.2026. Further information can be obtained from https://kppp/karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests and Technical Assistant to Deputy Conservator of Forests Koppa Division, Koppa
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/199/25-26/2041

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 39/2025-26 Date: 17.03.2026
In the Tender Notice seen above Tender is invited from eligible contractors for total 05 works through KPP Portal under Head of Account: 8443-00-117-0-16-542 Deposit Contribution, 3054-03-337-0-05-200 Maintenance of State Highway, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 Maintenance of District Main Roads, 5054-80-190-0-01-132 Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (Footbridge) and 01 works through Manual related to Sub divisions of Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District. Details of capabilities to undertaking or having implemented the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW-1, 2, & 4) should be attached. Contractors can be awarded the contract only if they have the minimum eligibilities as mentioned in Act 3. Minimum Approx. Amount Rs. 2.30 lakhs and Maximum Approx. Amount Rs. 172.38 lakhs. For Manual, Eligible contractors should submit application requesting blank Tender Form after paying the prescribed fee from 24.03.2026 to 27.03.2026, obtain blank Tender Form on 02.04.2026 and submit filled Tenders within 5.00 PM on 04.04.2026 and For Tender to be submitted through KPP Portal for 05 works (Indent No. 33992, 33990, 33320, (2nd Call), 32608, (2nd Call) on 26.03.2026, Indent No. 34666 on 06.04.2026) tender should be submitted within 4.30 PM. For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagalur.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/196/2038

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga, Taluk: Hosanagara,
e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No: ACF/HNR/ KFDF/CR-1/2025-26/99 Date: 17.03.2026
Detailed e-Tender Notice.
(e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)
Unitwar Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having experience for implementation of total 98 Advance Works for formation of plantation and maintenance and maintenance of saplings under KFDF Scheme of Approx. total Rs. 7.37 crores in various places in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 01.04.2026 up to 5.20 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests
Hosanagara Sub-Division, Hosanagara
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/108/03/0254

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/AE-2/AE- LH/2025-26/86 Date:18.03.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from eligible Tenderers for providing Wooden Storage Units/Wardrobes, Modular Kitchen, TV Unit, Repairs to toilet, Renovation of office, Architectural/Interior/ External development and other allied consultancy services, providing MS Grating to drain, flooring tiles in parking area, waterproofing to terrace, painting and other development works, total of 05 works at various notified places. Approx. value of work: Min. Rs. 10.07 lakhs, Max. Rs. 762.62 lakhs. EMD: Min. Rs. 12,600/-, Max. Rs. 11,44,000/-. Cost of Document: As in e-portal. Period of Completion for each work: from 2 Months to 24 Months (including rainy season). Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: For Sl. No. 1: 23.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM, For Sl. No. 2 to 5: 24.03.2026 up to 5.00 PM. Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, Indent No.s approx. amount, EMD, Reservation, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/6382/KSMCA/2025-26

APPEAL

Master Toni, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital No.APD1.0011844940, 4 years is Diagnosed to be Suffering from Thalassemia Major. He is currently on supportive care for the same. The only Curative Treatment for Thalassemia major is Bone Marrow Transplant. The Estimated cost of the transplant is approximate Rs.29,00,000/-.
Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. Save Poor Lives A/c Toni, Our A/c Details: S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T.ACT.
SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 16/2025-26 Dated : 20-03-2026
The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist.on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for 04 No. of works Amounting from Rs.396.00 Lakhs to Rs. 200.00 Lakhs and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory,
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, email: acepajmer@gmail.com acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No F()ACR/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM/2025-26/8014 Date: 16/03/2026
CORRIGENDUM NO. 1
In continuation to this office NIT No.03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 16.03.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 25.03.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 16.03.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 25.03.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	17.03.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 27.03.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	17.03.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 27.03.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.
(Gopesh Garg)
Additional Chief Engineer
(Project) PHED, Ajmer
DIPR/C/5670/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 15/2025-26 Memo No -611 Dt.12/03/2026
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as detailed in the table below:
1. Nature of Work : Road Works
2. No of Work : 1 No
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : A & Special Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.23.03.2026 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.07.04.2026
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.08.04.2026 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
34001/204/2526 OIPR-34001/34127/1/25-26/0006

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
No:SHAR: CMG CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-18/25-26 Dt: 18.03.2026
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for following works;

Name of Work	Tender No	Estimate Cost
Readiness of 150 nos.of vacant/under repair Qtrs in PHC-I & II, SDSC	T/C-25-068	₹ 89.79 Lakhs
Replacement of Joinery in 105 nos occupied Qtrs in PHC-I & II, SDSC	T/C-25-069	₹ 40.56 Lakhs
Supplying & fixing shamiyana and its accessories on hire basis at SDSC for the year 2026-2027	T/C-25-070	₹ 13.71 Lakhs
Arresting roof leakage by PU treatment at Gate-1 Building, SDSC	T/C-25-071	₹ 5.82 Lakhs

Tender documents can be downloaded up to 30.03.2026, 14:30 hrs. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html and tender free view at https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro
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No: DTE/T-4(SCHEME)/PMPES/4324(3)/2026/60715 दिनांक :14/03/2026
Corrigendum- II
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2025–26 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किये जो रहे है:–

S.No.	UBN No.	Corrigendum
01	UBN No. TET2526SLOB00140 TET2526SLOB00141 TET2526SLOB00142 TET2526SLOB00143 TET2526SLOB00144 TET2526SLOB00145 TET2526SLOB00146 TET2526SLOB00147	RFP में निम्नानुसार आवश्यक संशोधन किये जा रहे है– 1. Pre-Bid Conference- 16.04.2026 2. Authority response to queries latest by- 21.04.2026 3. Authority's additional response, if any- 28.04.2026 4. Bid Due Date- 19.05.2026 5. Opening of Technical Bids- 19.05.2026 6. Announcement of qualified Bidders- 03.06.2026 7. Opening of Financial Bid- 09.06.2026 8. Letter of Award (LOA)- Within 30 days of opening of Financial Bid 9. Validity of Bids- 120 days of Bid Due Date 10. Signing of License Agreement- withing 30 days of award of LOA

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UP Expands Global Investment Partnerships

CM Yogi Adityanath's Singapore and Japan Visit Brings ₹1.5 Lakh Crore MoUs and ₹2.5 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals

Strengthening Global Economic Ties to Accelerate Uttar Pradesh's Growth

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently completed a four-day official visit to Singapore and Japan, marking a significant step in strengthening Uttar Pradesh's global economic partnerships.

During the visit, the state secured multiple Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and investment proposals across key sectors such as green energy, semiconductors, logistics, electronics manufacturing and urban infrastructure, with the potential to generate significant employment opportunities for youth in the state.

Visit Duration	Meetings & Events	Global investors Engaged	MoUs Signed	Investment Proposals	Employment Potential
4 Days	60+	450-500	₹1.5 Lakh Cr.	₹2.5 Lakh Cr.	5+ Lakh Jobs

Global Investment Outreach

Roadshows
Three major investment roadshows were organised in **Singapore and Japan**, attracting strong participation from global industry leaders and investors.

Investor Participation
Around **450-500 global investors, industrialists and financial institutions** participated in these engagements, reflecting growing confidence in Uttar Pradesh's economic potential.

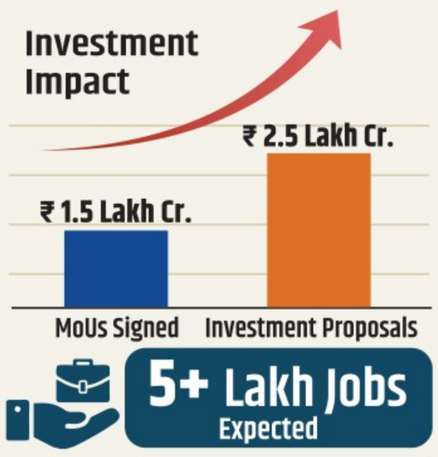
Government Engagement
Chief Minister held over **60 official meetings and strategic engagements** with industry leaders, investors and institutions, reinforcing international investment partnerships.

Global Partnership

Key Partnerships: MoUs Signed During CM Yogi Adityanath's Singapore Visit

Singapore Partnership	
Company/ Organization	**Sector**
Universal Success Group	Urban Development & Digital Infrastructure
Golden State Capital (GSC)	Digital Infrastructure
Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)	Green Energy
AVPN Limited	Renewable energy
ITE Education Services (ITEES)	Skill Development

MoUs signed between Chief Minister Yogi and Universal Success Group, strengthening investment ties with Uttar Pradesh.



Key Partnerships: MoUs Signed During CM Yogi Adityanath's Japan Visit

Japan Partnership	
Company/ Organization	**Sector**
Kubota Corporation	Agricultural machinery, farm mechanization and environmental infrastructure
Minda Corporation (Spark Minda Group)	Automotive components, EV solutions, electronics manufacturing
Japan Aviation Electronics Industry (JAE)	Advanced connectors and electronic interface solutions for automotive & aerospace sectors
Nagase & Co., Ltd.	Chemicals, advanced materials, mobility solutions and electronics
Seiko Advance	Industrial printing inks, coatings, automotive decals and industrial graphics
O&O Group	Hospitality and real estate sector
Fuji Japanese JV	Industrial and manufacturing collaboration
Fuji Silvertech Concrete Pvt. Ltd.	Industrial and construction-related manufacturing
Yamanashi Prefecture	Green hydrogen cooperation, technology partnership, research and training

Investment Roadshows

The investment roadshows in Singapore and Japan provided a platform for global investors to explore opportunities in Uttar Pradesh and participate in the state's development journey.

Singapore

Japan

450-500 Global Investors Participated

Strategic Sectors of Cooperation

The partnerships focus on high-growth sectors aligned with Uttar Pradesh's long-term industrial strategy

Green Hydrogen | Semiconductors | Electronics Manufacturing | Data Centers | Renewable Energy

Logistics | Defense Manufacturing | Skill Development | Urban Infrastructure | EV Solutions

Presenting Uttar Pradesh's Growth Story

During interactions with global investors, Chief Minister highlighted the key strengths that make Uttar Pradesh an attractive investment destination:

▪ Progressive Industrial Policy Framework ▪ Rapid Infrastructure Development ▪ Strong Law-and-Order Environment ▪ Expanding Consumer Market

These strengths position Uttar Pradesh as a preferred destination for global industries and long-term investments.

> **"This visit will give a new direction to Uttar Pradesh's industrial future."**
> **- Yogi Adityanath,** Chief Minister, U.P.

Chief Minister has directed Invest UP and concerned departments to promptly move forward with the investment proposals and agreements finalized during the visit.

The focus will now shift towards timely implementation of investment proposals, ensuring that these partnerships translate into industrial growth, infrastructure expansion and large-scale employment generation in Uttar Pradesh.

The Singapore-Japan visit marks a significant step in strengthening Uttar Pradesh's global economic engagement. By attracting large-scale investment proposals, opening new areas of cooperation and building strong investor confidence, the visit reinforces the state's momentum toward accelerated industrial development and economic expansion.

Global Partnerships Today. A Trillion-Dollar Uttar Pradesh Tomorrow

M BG-BGE

Most restaurant kitchens are designed around LPG-based stoves and equipment. Shifting to electric or induction systems would mean replacing burners, vessels and, in many cases, upgrading wiring capacity. H.S. MANJUNATH

Why alternatives can't replace LPG yet

Renewable energy accounts for a larger share than conventional sources in Karnataka's total installed power generation capacity. The LPG crisis exposed our continued dependence on conventional sources. **Rishita Khanna** explores why it is so and what it takes to change

At a time when many eateries across Bengaluru are scaling down their menus and households are rushing to buy induction stoves due to LPG shortage, Reva Jhingan Malik and Ranjan Malik's home remains unaffected. The family moved away from LPG six years ago, shifting instead to solar-based cooking at their "mud" house.

Their home has no LPG connections, taps, and fridge or washing machine, and relies only on sustainable alternatives. The shift began during Reva's research on learning practices in rural communities, where the couple observed how households were deeply rooted in sustainable, low-dependence lifestyles, in contrast to what she describes as the "false abundance" of urban living. Since 2020, their meals have been prepared using a three-compartment solar cooker, while their electricity needs are met through a small 850 vA rooftop solar setup.

But such self-sustained models remain an exception, particularly when it comes to urban commercial kitchens that depend on uninterrupted, high-volume cooking. That gap is reflected in the Karnataka's broader energy mix.

> Small eateries largely depend on LPG because it is the only fuel that can reliably meet the scale and speed of commercial cooking.
>
> **BASAVARAJ M.S.,** A small eatery owner

Energy mix

Karnataka currently has a total installed power generation capacity of about 36,472 megawatts (MW), with renewable energy accounting for a larger share than conventional sources. Of the total, around 20,162 MW comes from renewable sources, while 16,310 MW is generated from thermal, hydro, and gas-based plants.

For most eateries, alternative cooking fuels come with challenges related to infrastructure, cost and the nature of commercial cooking.

Among conventional sources, State-owned thermal power plants contribute 5,020 MW, while Karnataka receives 4,081 MW as its share from Central Generating Stations. Hydropower accounts for another 3,798 MW. Additional sources include 1,200 MW from Udupi Power Corporation Limited, 1,391 MW from captive mini-thermal plants, 450 MW from the Damodar Valley Corporation, and 370 MW from the Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant.

Renewables form the largest portion of the State's installed capacity, with solar alone contributing about 9,805 MW, followed by wind at 7,536 MW. Other sources include 1,742 MW from co-generation, 940 MW from mini hydel projects, and 139 MW from biomass. Together, these account for more than half of Karnataka's installed electricity capacity.

However, despite the rapid expansion of renewable energy in the State, this shift has not translated into viable alternatives for small eateries and commercial kitchens, which continue to rely almost entirely on LPG – a dependence now exposed by the ongoing supply disruption. Most households too continue to depend on LPG.

LPG disruption

On March 9, the Bangalore Hotels' Association raised alarm over a sudden shortage of commercial LPG, which followed escalating tensions in West Asia – a region critical to India's fuel imports, with key shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz handling a significant share of global LPG trade. While the industry was initially assured that supplies were sufficient for over 70 days, the situation tightened within days.

Across the 40,000 hotels in Bengaluru, a majority of small and mid-sized eateries either restricted operations to beverages such as tea and filter coffee or sharply cut down menus to basic rice-based items like sambar rice starting March 10. In the days that followed, as the disruption persisted, several establishments also began increasing prices amid rising input costs and continued uncertainty over supplies. For most hotels, however, the disruption is not just a supply issue but explains how deeply small and medium scale commercial kitchens are built around LPG.

"Small eateries largely depend on LPG because it is the only fuel that can reliably meet the scale and speed of commercial cooking," said Basavaraj M.S., who runs a small eatery in Rajajinagar. In most restaurants, multiple burners operate simultaneously for hours – preparing dosa, frying snacks, boiling rice and cooking curries at the same time. LPG provides a strong, consistent flame that can be adjusted instantly depending on the dish.

This dependence is also reinforced by the way kitchens are set up. "Most restaurant kitchens are designed around LPG-based stoves and equipment. Shifting to electric or induction systems would mean replacing burners, vessels and, in many cases, upgrading wiring capacity. For small eateries operating on thin margins, that is not practical," he said.

Power generation in State

Source	Installed capacity in MW
Hydro	3,798
State-owned thermal	5,020
State share with CGS	4,081
UPCL (IPP)	1,200
LTA (DVC)	450
Captive (Mini-thermal)	1,391
YCCP gas	370
Total (Conventional)	**16,310**
Source	**Installed capacity in MW**
Wind	7,536
Solar	9,805
Mini-hydel	940
Biomass	139
Cogeneration	1,742
Total (RE)	**20,162**

Source: Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL)

Practical barriers

Even in situations where alternatives are considered, operational constraints remain, hoteliers say.

For most eateries, alternative cooking fuels come with challenges related to infrastructure, cost and the nature of commercial cooking, said Roopa Shashtri, owner of a restaurant in Gandhinagar. "Solar energy, for instance, cannot directly support kitchen operations as it does not generate the kind of continuous, high heat required for bulk cooking. While it can produce electricity, running multiple appliances would require large rooftop spaces and battery storage systems, something rarely feasible in compact, rented commercial spaces," she explained.

Mahesh Bhat K., owner of a restaurant in Vasanth Nagar, added that electric cooking also presents limitations at scale. Running several induction or electric stoves simultaneously requires significantly higher electrical load than what most establishments are equipped for. Many restaurants already operate close to their sanctioned capacity, and upgrading to higher-load connections involves additional cost and approvals.

Other alternatives such as piped natural gas (PNG) and biomass also face constraints. PNG infrastructure remains limited to certain areas, leaving many eateries without access, while installation requires time and upfront investment. Biomass-based fuels, on the other hand, require additional space, ventilation and handling due to smoke and residue, conditions that are difficult to manage in dense urban kitchens.

Waste-to-energy solutions face a more fundamental challenge; the lack of consistent waste segregation at source. Mixed waste, in practice, significantly reduces the efficiency of such systems.

Despite policy push and infrastructure in place, poor segregation by households and commercial establishments continues to limit the viability of waste-to-energy at an individual or decentralised level.

At scale

In contrast, a few large, centralised kitchens have managed to integrate such alternatives into their operations at scale.

One such example is Adamya Chetana's Annapoorna kitchen in Bengaluru, which prepares over 72,000 mid-day meals without relying on LPG, diesel or kerosene. The facility, which initially operated on LPG in 2011 and later transitioned to diesel, has over time shifted to a fully fossil-fuel-free model built on biomass and circular resource use.

Cooking here is powered primarily by biomass briquettes made from agricultural waste. The organisation estimates that the transition has helped save nearly 12,500 LPG cylinders and close to one lakh litres of diesel annually.

The system is supported by integrated resource use – organic waste is repurposed as fuel, a biogas unit converts kitchen waste into energy for additional heating, and a co-generation system produces hot water without additional fuel. Solar power supports part of the electricity demand through rooftop installations. Waste management is central to operations. What was once nearly 300 kg of daily waste has been reduced to zero through reuse and recycling, with vegetable waste diverted for composting or cattle feed, and water reused across processes.

However, such models depend on scale, space and long-term planning – factors that hoteliers say are largely absent in small and mid-sized eateries operating in compact, rented spaces. The transition also requires upfront investment and redesign, making it difficult to replicate across any city's fragmented food sector.

Beyond fuel availability

Explaining why alternatives to LPG remain limited for residential use at present, Purva Jain, Lead Energy Specialist (Gas and International Advocacy), South Asia, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said that while alternatives exist, their adoption needs more policy support.

"If you look purely at the cost of use, electric cooking can turn out to be one of the cheapest option today. Our (IEEFA) analysis shows that for a family of four, electricity-based cooking is cheaper than both PNG and non-subsidised LPG, and is comparable to subsidised LPG for many consumers. PNG can be around 14% more expensive than electricity-based cooking, and non-subsidised LPG up to 37% more for a family of four in Delhi."

However, operating costs alone does not drive adoption. "The real challenge lies in the upfront cost of procurement and awareness. LPG continues to dominate because most users already have the connection, equipment, and utensils. Even for a new connection, the initial cost is relatively low compared to other options," she stressed.

Rooftop solar

This gap between potential and adoption is also visible in rooftop solar uptake across Bengaluru. According to data from the Energy Ddepartment, 14,944 buildings under the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited have installed rooftop solar systems, including 215 government buildings, together generating about 352.35 MW of electricity.

Within Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts alone, there are 5,370 such installations, with 4,984 in urban areas.

Jain pointed out that alternatives such as PNG and induction cooking come with higher entry barriers. "For PNG, the upfront cost of getting a connection, including deposits, is significantly higher, and more importantly, it is only available in areas where pipeline infrastructure exists. That geographic limitation itself becomes a constraint."

Induction cooking, she added, faces both cost and design challenges. "The cost of buying induction cooktops and compatible utensils is higher, and the design itself can be a barrier. In India, even the most basic cooking setup typically involves at least two burners. Most induction systems are single-cooktop units, and upgrading to multiple units increases costs further. That becomes a constraint, especially for households or commercial kitchens used to cooking multiple dishes simultaneously."

The way forward

Jain said the current volatility resulting in LPG supply disruption should be seen as an opportunity to push cleaner alternatives, but only with the right policy and market support. "There is a clear middle path here. Awareness is one part, both from a policy perspective and from manufacturers. Companies need to make alternative technologies more accessible and affordable, just as LPG ecosystems have evolved over time."

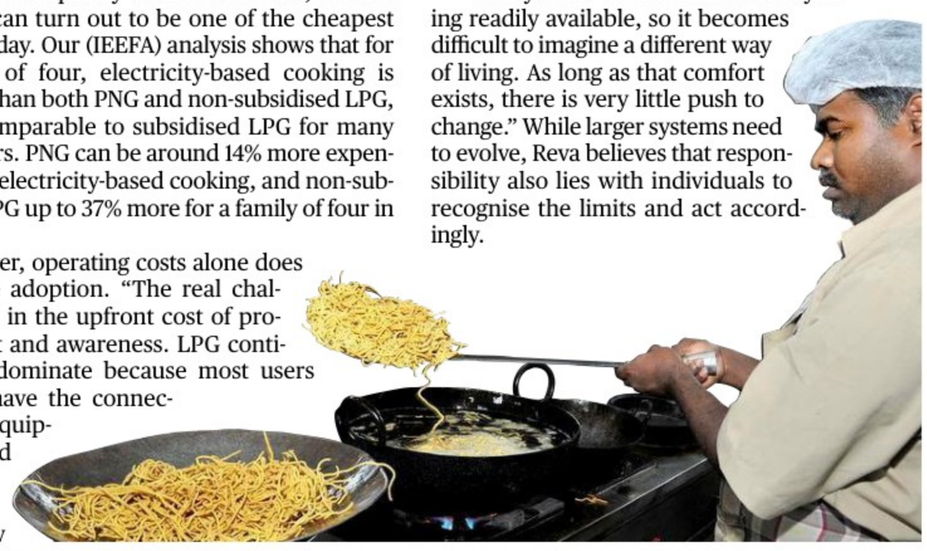
On other alternatives, she said solutions like waste-to-energy and biogas require deeper systemic changes. "Waste-to-energy faces challenges such as lack of proper waste segregation, which makes it difficult to scale in India. Biogas, on the other hand, has strong potential, particularly in rural areas and cluster-based industries, but again, it needs coherent policy and fiscal support and infrastructure."

"In a country like India, no single fuel can replace another entirely," she added. "The focus should be on optimising different energy sources based on context, which requires long-term planning, not just short-term responses during crises."

Individual choice matters

Emphasising the importance of conscious choice, Reva Jhingan Malik said their decision to build an off-grid home came at a time when Bengaluru was repeatedly making headlines for water scarcity and pollution, prompting them to rethink how they lived. She believes more people do not move towards such models largely because the urgency of the problem does not fully register at an individual level.

"The systems we live in make everything readily available, so it becomes difficult to imagine a different way of living. As long as that comfort exists, there is very little push to change." While larger systems need to evolve, Reva believes that responsibility also lies with individuals to recognise the limits and act accordingly.



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COVER

Rise of vertical mobility

As cities build upward, elevators and smart mobility systems are becoming critical urban infrastructure

Sebi Joseph

India's urban transition is entering a decisive decade. In 2025, around 36% of the country's population was estimated to be living in cities, and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) projects that this proportion will approach 50% by 2050. Urbanisation on this scale is fundamentally reshaping how cities grow, how buildings are designed, and how people move within them.

For decades, urban mobility focused on shrinking distances across cities, with roads, metro lines, and transit corridors, for example. Now, as Indian cities become denser, and land is at a premium, vertical mobility is the key dynamic. How people move within buildings and through urban infrastructure is equally important.

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New infrastructure

Cities such as Mumbai, where land scarcity has long constrained horizontal growth, are witnessing large-scale redevelopment of ageing housing societies into clusters of high-rise towers. Similar trends are now emerging across Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad as urban land values rise and demand for housing and commercial space continues to grow. Vertical development allows cities to accommodate more residents and businesses within the land available, but it also introduces new planning challenges. A high-rise building cluster, housing hundreds or thousands of families or employees, functions like a micro-city.

In this context, vertical mobility systems, elevators, escalators and smart movement technologies are the core infrastructure that determine whether dense urban development can function safely, reliably and efficiently.

After all, by 2050, one in five people in India will be over 60, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India report, which means changing the way we think not only about designing new infrastructure but also about the longevity and modernisation needs of existing equipment is essential. As buildings become taller and more densely occupied, reliability is critical. Advances in technology are enabling a more proactive approach to managing these systems. Modern elevators can incorporate sensors that monitor operational patterns, component wear, and usage cycles. The data generated through these systems allows service providers to detect potential issues often before they could lead to disruptions.

From a developer's perspective, investing in intelligent mobility systems is about the long-term performance of an asset. Buildings that maintain reliable mobility infrastructure tend to deliver better operational outcomes, stronger user satisfaction, and greater long-term value.

As buildings rise higher than ever and urban populations continue to grow, infrastructure planning must adapt to support this new dimension of urban living. Recognising the role of vertical mobility and planning for it early will be key to building cities that sustain the economic activity and opportunities that continue to draw people to them.

The writer is president of Otis India.

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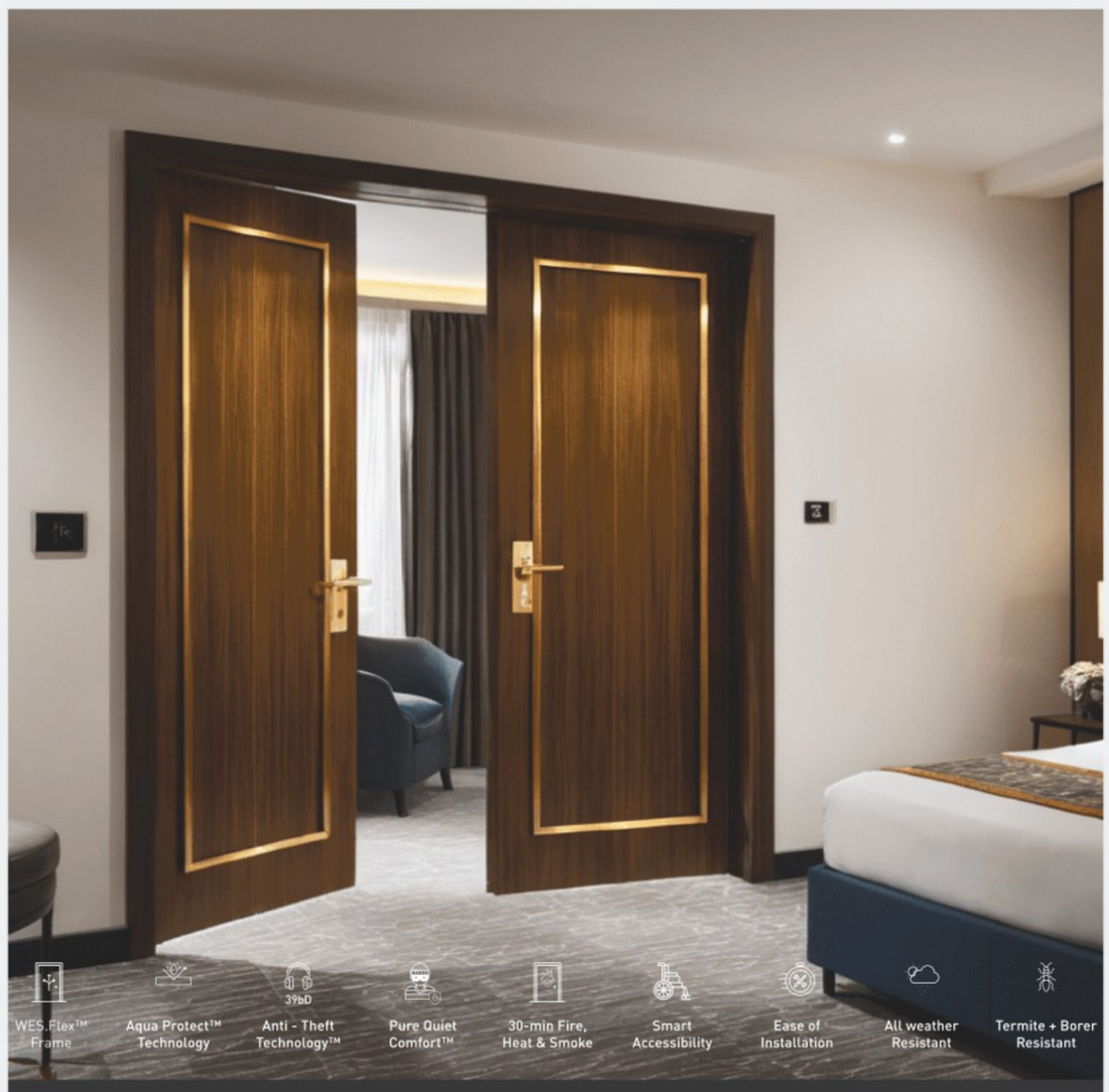

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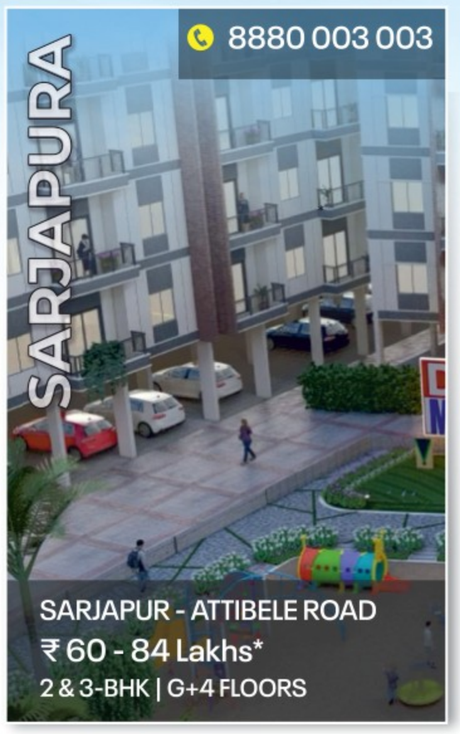

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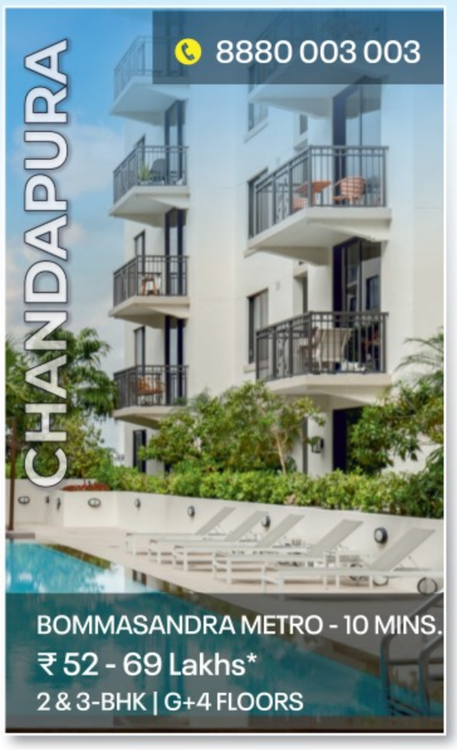

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The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the new link road now operational, travel time to Challaghatta is expected to reduce to around 30 minutes. K. MURALI KUMAR

The much-awaited 1.5-km connecting road developed by Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE) near Deepanjali Nagar Junction on Mysuru Road has been opened to the public, offering improved access to NICE Road, also known as the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor (BMIC).

The newly constructed four-lane stretch directly links Deepanjali Nagar junction (BHEL Circle) to NICE Road near Hosakerehalli PES College. The development is expected to ease traffic flow and provide connectivity towards Challaghatta and adjoining areas, which is likely to benefit thousands of daily commuters.

The project had faced delays due to land acquisition challenges. Currently, motorists travelling the 11-km stretch from Deepanjali Nagar to Challaghatta during peak hours spend between 45 minutes and an hour due to severe congestion. Key junctions such as Nayandahalli, R.R. Nagar, Jnanabharathi and Pattenagere frequently witness traffic snarls, particularly at signals.

With the new link road now operational, travel time to Challaghatta is expected to reduce to around 30 minutes.

A NICE official source said, "This connecting road is aimed at decongesting critical junctions and providing direct access to NICE Road. We expect a substantial reduction in travel time and smoother traffic movement."

Meanwhile, NICE promoter Ashok Kheny, in a post on X on March 16, shared a drone shot showcasing the newly opened stretch.

Wetland system to handle excess sewage at Jakkur Lake in Bengaluru

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

The wetland is designed as a step-by-step treatment system where the intervention begins at the inlet level, flows are segregated, and only treated water is allowed into the lake. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

What used to enter Jakkur Lake as untreated sewage, turning parts of the water black, foul-smelling, and unfit for aquatic life, is now being cleaned through a wetland system, designed to treat excess wastewater that existing infrastructure cannot handle.

The change was made as the lake, despite having a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), continued to receive 'additional' untreated sewage, especially through one of the three inlets – the northern inlet. With no immediate scope to expand the STP, North Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar told *The Hindu* that they have diverted this excess sewage into a wetland that treats the water in stages.

Akshath M.N., Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) for Lakes, North Corporation, explained that the lake receives both treated water and untreated sewage through the storm-water drain. To manage this, the inflows were first segregated, and treated water is allowed to enter the main lake directly, while untreated sewage is diverted through the constructed wetland for further treatment.

Before the formation of the GBA, the bund remained incomplete. The bund is now fully developed, and a walkway was constructed over it. Mr. Akshath said that while an existing STP at the site has a capacity of 22 million litres per day (MLD), the volume of sewage being received exceeds this by an additional 7 to 8 MLD. This excess sewage is diverted into the wetland system.

Natural treatment

"The wetland acts as a supplementary treatment mechanism, ensuring that the sewage passing through it undergoes natural treatment. As a result, by the time the water exits the wetland, pollution indicators such as Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) are reduced compared to the levels at the inlet," he added.

The wetland, developed at the cost of ₹5.1 crore, replaces an earlier natural wetland of about 10 acres that had stopped functioning due to the increasing sewage inflow that led to heavy accumulation of sludge and silt up to the Full Tank Level (FTL), rendering it unable to treat incoming wastewater. The new system has been built to handle this load more efficiently. The wetland operates as a multi-stage treatment system, based on a model developed by the Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST), Indian Institute of Science (IISc). The same model was implemented at Puttenahalli lake.

The wetland itself is designed as a step-by-step treatment system where the intervention begins at the inlet level, flows are segregated, and only treated water is allowed into the lake.

Professor H.N. Chanakya, CST, IISc, who evolved the wetland design at Jakkur Lake, said around 2021, the lake was receiving 4-5 million litres per day, which risked turning the water black while affecting fish and bird populations. The system, he explained, works in stages. First, sewage enters an anaerobic zone where organic matter is broken down in the absence of oxygen. It then moves to a second stage where Euglena consumes bacteria and improves clarity. In the final stage, water passes through a planted wetland with reeds and algae. Through photosynthesis, algae remove carbon dioxide, increase pH, drive off ammonia, precipitate phosphorus, and eliminate pathogens.

Prof. Chanakya added that by the time the treated water enters the main waterbody of the lake, it is significantly cleaner, with only permissible levels of organic matter and reduced turbidity and nutrients. Most of the nitrogen and phosphorus are removed, while a small amount of algae remains, forming the base of the aquatic food chain to evolve and thrive in the main waterbody.

KDA chairman releases book on 'Bhootaradhane'

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Chairman of Kannada Development Authority Purushottama Bilimale released "Ullakulu: Aaradhana Ananyate", a book on "Ullakulu" Bhootaradhane tradition, in Mangaluru on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Bilimale said no other folk tradition in India has seen as much quality research as *Bhootaradhane* has. *Ullakulu* was a continuation of this scholarly tradition. Author Poovappa Kaniyoor has revised and refined his research done 22 years ago and published it after it has matured. Folklore expert and former Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka Folklore University Chinnappa Gowda said through *Ullakulu*, the author has depicted the conflict and harmony between two worlds in Sullia. Mr. Kaniyoor's research is based on oral traditions, which represented the history of the people. Dr. Kaniyoor also spoke. The book was released at Karnataka Sahitya Tulu Academy's Dr. Vaman Nandavara Tulu Chavadi.

At work

A sericulture farmer near Anekal put silkworms on to 'chandranki' during the final stage in the making of cocoons. K. MURALI KUMAR

Senior citizens to protest in Hubballi on March 24

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Seeking fulfilment of their long-pending demands, including uniform pension rules across the country, separate Budget for senior citizens and others, senior citizens from across the State will take out a protest march in Hubballi on March 24.

Addressing press persons here on Friday, State president of 'Karnataka State Senior Citizens and Retired Employees' Welfare Association' B.A. Patil said that it had become necessary for them to protest as their repeated pleas had not been considered by successive governments.

He said the Budget too was disappointing for them as none of their demands were considered by the Chief Minister.

AIDYO seeks ban on 'obscene' song

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The Dharwad district unit of All India Democratic Youth Organisation (AIDYO) has sought an immediate ban on a song from the Kannada film KD, directed by Prem, taking exception to the alleged vulgarity and extremely poor taste.

In a press release, the AIDYO stated that the song, written by Mr. Prem, demeaned women's dignity, was highly vulgar and promoted an unhealthy attitude among youth.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Sri. Srinivas C.G, No.60, Shraddananda Bhavan Road, VV Puram, Bangalore-560004, has applied for a Mortgage Loan from Sir M Visvewaraya Bank, Shankar Mutt Branch, Bangalore by offering the following immovable property as security.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property site bearing No.60, Shraddananda Bhavan Road, VV Puram, Bangalore-560004, measuring Esat to West 114 feet and North to South 70 feet and bounded on

EAST BY: Shradananda Bhavan Road; WEST BY: Conservancy; NORTH BY: Property of Smt. Padmaseshadri ; SOUTH BY: Property of Dr. Puttaswamy House and Prof Lakshman's House

Together with all rights, easements and appurtenances attached thereto.The above property is proposed to be mortgaged in favour of Sir M Visveswaraya Bank, Shankar Mutt Branch, Bangalore as security for the loan.

Any person having any claim, right, title, interest, charge, lien, mortgage, inheritance, litigation, or any other objection whatsoever in respect of the above property is hereby required to notify the same in writing with supporting documents to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing which, it shall be presumed that the property is free from all encumbrances, and the Bank shall proceed with creation of mortgage in favour of the Bank without any further reference.

Pallavi K, Advocate
No.64/1, 5th Main, Chamrajapete
Bangalore-560018 Ph: 9739831357

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No6848/7038/5833/03/CMC/HPT/TENDER/2025-26 Dated:18 -03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.inany other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

01.**TENDER DETAILS:** DMA/2025-26/SE6848/CALL-3PROVIDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STAGE 1 HEAD WORKS RISING MAIN, WTP & BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM SCHEME TO BALANCING OHTS ChittvadagiTank ,Veterinary Tank, Amaravathi Tank, CMC Tank,Rajeev Nagar Tank,Bharathi Nagar Tank IN HOSPET CITY , VIJAYANAGARA DISTRICT. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 for 12 Months. **ESTIMATED COST (IN.RS.LAKHS):** 98.92

02.DMA/2025-26/SE7038/CALL-4PROVIDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STAGE 2 HEAD WORKS RISING MAIN, WTP RISING MAIN & BULK WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM SCHEME TO BALANCING OHTS St Joseph Tank, AC office Tank ,NC colony Tank ,Parvathi nagra Tank, Vinayak nagar GSLR , Patel High school Tank ,Sirsinkallu GSLR , Kariganur Tank, Sanklapura Tank , Kotreshappa Layout Tank,SidlingappaChouki Tank, Anantashayanagudi Tank ,Chapparadahalli Tank ,Kondanayakanahalli Tank and Kondanayakanahalli Tank Near School IN HOSPET CITY. **ESTIMATED COST (IN.RS.LAKHS):** 97.03

03.DMA/2025-26/IND5833/CALL-3Supply of various Chemicals to 1st & 2nd Stage Water Treatment Plant in Hosapete city. **ESTIMATED COST (IN.RS.LAKHS):** 122.50

01)Tender Last Date: **26-03-2026TIME5.00 PM,** 02)Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: **27-03-2026TIME5.30 PM,** 03)OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: **CMC HOSAPETE.**

Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete **DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/ KSMCA/RO No/605** **Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.**

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CIVIL ENGINEERING DIVISION BELAGAVI.

NWKRTC/EE/BGM/DB/903/2025-26 Date: 20/03/2026.

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. -16/2025-26
(Through Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Item rate tenders in **Two Cover System** are invited through **Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** for the following work from appropriate class of Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD/MES as per the schedule given below.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Name of Work	Type of Tender	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Last date for submission of Tender
1	16	Construction of New Divisional workshop and its subworks at Chikodi. (Phase-1) (Call-2)	Two Cover	572=50	8,58,750=00	Class-1	30/03/2026

For further details visit https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for any "HELP" regarding uploading of Tender Documents, please call on help desk **-+91-8046010000 and +91-8068948777** of all working hours. Bidders can contact this office for further details in all working hours or Call 0831-2451475. **Any changes in Tender Notification, Corrigendum/Addendum will be published in Gok Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only, separate paper notification will not be issued.**

DIPR/BELAGAVI/2128/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

Sd/- Executive Engineer, NWKRTC CE Division, BELAGAVI.

Agriculture Produce Market Committee Lingasugur -584122
E-mail : apmclingasugur@gmail.com T : 08537-257382

S. No. AMD/APMC /LGS/DEV/TENDER/1424 /2025-26 Date: 16/03/2026

E-Tender Notification.

Agricultural produce market committee, Lingasugur invites tender for 2025-26 Action plan at SMY Mudgal and MMY of APMC Lingasugur through e-procurement only in 2 cover system for the item rate basis from the eligible PWD contractors. The Tenderers are required to submit the requisite details through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per KTTP rules and norms.

Schedule of Events 01) Publication Of Notification20-03-2026.02) Pre BID Meeting Date & time: 23-03-2026 11:30AM at Office APMC Lingasugur. 03) Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: 02-04-2026 4:30 PM. 04) Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid 06-04-2026 4:30 within PM. 05) Date & time for opening of financial Bid: 16-04-2026 4:30 within PM(If possible)

Sl. No	WORK INDENT NUMBER	Amount put to Tender (in Rs. Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs. Lakhs)	Eligibility of contractor
1	(APMC/2025-26/ BD/WORK_ INDENT 836)	18.64	46,600.00	PWD Class-III CIVIL Contractor As per KW-1 Eligible Contractor
2	(APMC/2025-26/ OW/ WORK_ INDENT 842)	60.57	1,21,500.00	As per KW-3 Eligible Contractor
3	(APMC/2025-26/ BD/ WORK_ INDENT 893)	104.44	2,00,000.00	As per KW-4 Eligible Contractor
4	(APMC/2025-26/ RD/ WORK_ INDENT 843)	59.03	1,18,500.00	As per KW-3 Eligible Contractor

Any additional information and conditions can be obtained from Website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or by contacting Karnataka Government E-Procurement help Desk, 080-22485867 or Secretary, APMC, LINGASUGUR, 08537-257382 on all working days. Changes if any in the tender notification shall be made known only in the Website. APMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Secretary APMC, Lingasugur DIP/RCR/776/KSMC&A/779/2025-26 **Sd/- President APMC, Lingasugur**

Trainee vet killed in hippo attack in Shivamogga

Officials say that Sameeksha Reddy was attacked by the animal while checking its temperature using non-invasive infrared thermography at Tyavarekoppa Lion and Tiger Safari

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A 27-year-old trainee veterinary officer died after she suffered serious injuries following an attack by a hippopotamus at Tyavarekoppa Lion and Tiger Safari in Shivamogga.

Sameeksha Reddy, a native of Bengaluru, had been recently recruited as a trainee veterinary officer at the safari. She had been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the health condition of two ailing sun conure birds. She was at the veterinary hospital around 10.30 p.m. on Thursday.

Sameeksha Reddy

Later, she decided to check the body temperature of the pregnant hippopotamus. While she was checking the temperature using non-invasive infrared thermography, the animal suddenly attacked her.

She suffered deep wounds, excessive bleeding, and damage to her liver, which led to cardiac arrest, according to official sources

The staff of the safari shifted her to a private hospital in Shivamogga. She had suffered deep wounds, excessive bleeding, and damage to her liver, which led to cardiac arrest, according to official sources. She succumbed to injuries around 6.30 a.m. on Friday.

According to officials, she was undergoing training as a veterinary officer, and there was an additional 45-day training period.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has mourned the death of the veterinary officer and instructed officials to ensure standard operating procedures are followed strictly to avoid such incidents.

He asked officers to constitute a team of officials to investigate the incident and submit a report.

Forest fires in Kudremukh: Khandre orders probe, seeks report in 7 days

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Multiple instances of forest fires have been reported in parts of the Kerekatte range of Kudremukh Wildlife Division, causing loss of land cover in the last couple of days.

Locals noticed forest fires at different locations spread over Kerekatte, Manikya Betta, and the surrounding areas, engulfing vast areas of shola vegetation.

Sivaram Babu, DCF of the Kudremukh Wildlife Division, informed the media that forest fires were reported at two locations in the Kerekatte range. "We got the fire alerts on Thursday afternoon. Our staff doused the fire by evening. Only the grassland spread over 18 acres has been affected; no damage to the shola forests," the officer said.

Locals noticed forest fires at different locations spread over Kerekatte, Manikya Betta, and the surrounding areas, engulfing vast areas of shola vegetation. FILE PHOTO

Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, taking a serious note of the forest fire, held a meeting with senior officials of the department at his official residence in Bengaluru. He instructed the officers to take all measures necessary to stop the spread of the forest fire and to avoid such instances in future.

The Minister has directed the officers to find out if the failure of the officials in the department led to the forest fire and to take suitable action against them

He also asked V. Karikalan, Conservator of Forests of Managaluru Circle, to probe into the development and submit a report within seven days. The officer had been instructed to submit a report on forest-dwellers willing to move out of the forests. Besides that, he directed the officers to find out if the failure of the officials in the department led to the forest fire and to take suitable action against them.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Sir CV Raman General Hospital. Indiranagar. Bengaluru-560038

ms Cv ramannagar invites short term tender for supply of essential items to sir Cvramannagar general hospital

The Medical Superintendent, Sir CV Raman General Hospital, Bengaluru invites proposal in two cover system for Supply of Essential Items for Sir CV Raman General Hospital through Karnataka public procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act & Rules 2000. Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned portal.

1	Tender Reference No.	**DHFWS/2025-26/IND2369**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka public procurement portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**From 19/03/2026 onwards**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public procurement portal	**23/03/2026 up to 5:00 PM**
4	Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in Karnataka public procurement portal	**27/03/2026 up to 5:00 PM**
5	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids in Karnataka public procurement portal.	**28/03/2026 at 5:10 PM**
6	Date and Time of Sample submission	**26/03/2026 upto 5:00 pm**

7. Address for Communication : **Office of Medical Superintendent, Sir CV Raman General Hospital, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560038, Contact number: 080-25281245, Email ID: ghibengaluru@gmail.com.**

DIPR/CP/6377/Zen/2025-26 **Sd/- Medical Superintendent, Bangalore**

Indian Overseas Bank
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - Supply, Implementation, Maintenance of Cheque Truncation System (CTS) under Capex model.
BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7367951
DATED 17.03.2026
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office Of the Deputy Commissioner,
District Urban Development Cell, Vijayapura District, Vijayapura.
Phone No:08352-259855, Email: ka.vijapura.dudc@gmail.com
Office Website: www.vijayapuradudc.mrc.gov.in

No: DUDC-5/NGRTH-4/Tender/CR-01/2025-26 Dated:18.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC Vijayapura invites Tender in Single and Two cover system using KG TenderDocuments for Registered Contractors/Suppliers under Chief Minister Amrut Nagarothan (municipality) Phase-4 project and details as fallow.

Indent No:	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders
DMA/2025-26/IND6101, 6081	**26-03-2026 Time 16:00:00**
DMA/2024-25/IND4217/ CALL-2, 6104	**27-03-2026 Time 17:00:00**

Contractors who wish to participate in tender can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in For any clarification contact EE/AEE on working hours at office. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Addendum / Corrigendum of tenders is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
District Urban Development Cell, Vijayapur.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/830/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Department of Women and Child Development
Office of the Deputy Director, Bengaluru Urban District,
No. 16, 2nd Main Road, H.A.L. 3rd Stage,Bengaluru-560029.
Email: dwcd.dd@gmail.com | Phone: 080-29578688

No: ಉಪನಿ/ಬೆಂ.ನ/ಅ/ಬಾ.ಮೂ.ಸೇ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/77/2025–26/1577 Date: 20.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

For the year 2026–27, the Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Bengaluru Urban District, invites short-term e-tenders through the Government e-Procurement portal from eligible agencies for providing human resource services on a contractual basis for a period of one (01) year. The Last date for submitting the e-tender is **01.04.2026 at 5:30 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **04.04.2026 at 11:30 AM,** and the financial bid will be opened on **07.04.2026 at 11:30 AM.** For more information, please visit the website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the phone number: 080-29578688 during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director
Department of Women and Child Development
Bengaluru Urban District
DIPR/CP/AAA/6371/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560 012 Phone: 080-23 460 460 (5 Lines)
e-mail:keauthority-ka@nic.in Website: https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/

No. ED/KEA/ REC/CR-01 /2026 **Date: 18-03-2026**

NOTIFICATION

PGCET-2026 - Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester MBA, MCA, M.E., M. Tech., M. Architecture Courses

1. Online application is invited from the eligible interested Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates for admission to 1st year / 1st semester full time / part time MBA, MCA, M.E. / M. Tech. / M. Architecture courses in the institutions affiliated Universities which will be notified by the Government of Karnataka for the year 2026-27.
2. Interested candidates have to appear for PGCET-2026 conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority to become eligible for admission to **MBA, MCA, M.E. / M. Tech** courses as per 2005 and 2011 PGCET rules and its amendments.
   # M.E. / M.Tech examination will be conducted only for **Civil Engineering, Computer Science Engineering, Mechanical Sciences, and Electrical Sciences subjects.**

The Post Graduate Common Entrance Test-2026 Time Table is as follows:

Date	Timings	Admission to 1st Year / 1st Semester	Number of questions	Total Marks	Method of exam
23-05-2026 SATURDAY	2.30 pm to 4.30 pm	**# M.E. / M. Tech ***	100	100	PGCET will be conducted through OMR. Question paper will be of Objective Multiple Choice type.
24-05-2026 SUNDAY	10.30 am to 12.30 pm	MCA	100	100	
	2.30 pm to 4.30 pm	MBA	100	100	

(*Non-programmable calculators are allowed for M.E. / M.Tech. examination only)

3. SYLLABUS: PGCET-2026 syllabus is hosted on the KEA Website for the information of the candidates.
4. In accordance with the Government letter No. ED 161 TEC 2025 dated 27-06-2025, PGCET entrance examination will NOT be conducted for Bio-Technology, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Polymer Science, and Textile Technology subjects, further for admission to these subjects based on the marks obtained in the respective Degree Examination; further,
5. For admission to M. Architecture courses, candidates should qualify in PGETA-2026 conducted by Council of Architecture, New Delhi and;
6. it is mandatory for the candidates to register online for Karnataka PGCET-2026, submit an online application and pay the application fee.
7. GATE qualified candidates in Engineering and Technology discipline are only eligible to take admission to Various M.Tech Programmes under VTU, Belgaum. The candidates with valid GATE score should compulsorily enter application online to become eligible for admission to M.E. / M. Tech / M. Architecture courses, **but they need not appear for PGCET-2026.**
8. Candidates who do not fulfil any of the eligibility clauses specified in the **PGCET-2026 e-Information Bulletin** will be considered **non-Karnataka candidates (clause-n).** Such candidates will be eligible for admission to **MBA/MCA programs only against the seats, if any, that are surrendered by the management during the admission process.** Please note that SC/ST/OBC eligibility criteria are applicable to Karnataka SC/ST/OBC candidates only.
9. Before registering through online for admission to PG courses, applicants have to compulsorily read Information Bulletin, detailed notification and understand the eligibility conditions, educational qualification, classification of seats and eligibility to claim such seats hosted on the KEA Website.
10. For admission to MBA / MCA / M.E. / M.Tech / M. Architecture courses through KEA for the year 2026, interested and eligible candidates have to register and apply online, **from 11.00 am onwards on 23-03-2026 up to 11.59 pm on 08-04-2026.** Fee has to be paid **on or before 10-04-2026.**
11. *All the admissions and undergraduate Degrees to claim eligibility for admission to any of the PG courses are subject to approval of the Government / VTU / other respective University.*
12. Candidates are advised to visit KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/** for more details notification regarding admission rules, eligibility clauses and various schedules.

Sd/-
(H. Prasanna, IAS),
Executive Director.
DIPR/CP/AAPL/6370/2025-26

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು
ಎಂ.ಎನ್.ಹಳ್ಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು PIN-563 131, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 9742888865

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಮು/514/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:13.03.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃಉಮಾಸ ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ Standard KW-2/ KW-3 ರಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ	ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ	ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಕೃಉಮಾಸ ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು, ಎನ್.ವಡ್ಡಹಳ್ಳಿ ಉಪಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಾಕಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚರಂಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT867)	91,71,746 ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3	1,83,500	06 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	02.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2	ಕೃಉಮಾಸ ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ ಮುಂಭಾಗ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿಮುಖವಾಗಿ 20x30 ಅಡಿಗಳ 05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. APMC/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT865	41,49,075 ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2	83,000	06 ತಿಂಗಳು (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ)	02.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಷರತ್ತು–ವಾ–ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಥವಾ **ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ–9742888865** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಮುಳಬಾಗಿಲು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಕೋಲಾರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:545/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Long Term Tender Notice
IFB Nos.52/2025-26 to 74/2025-26 Dt.18.03.2026

Tender for **23 Nos. of Works** in respect of LLC Division, Ballari under 'Works Category" are invited through `e-Procurement'.

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	**20.03.2026 at 11:00 AM**
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time:	**06.04.2026 at 3:00 PM**
Bid Submission End Date & Time:	**06.04.2026 at 5:30 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **(upto Rs.50.00 Lakhs)**	**06.04.2026 at 6:00 PM**
Date of opening of PQ Stage: **(above Rs.50.00 Lakhs)**	**06.04.2026 at 6:00 PM**
Date of opening of Commercial Stage: **(Above Rs.50.00 Lakhs)**	**08.04.2026 at 11:00 AM**

Further details can be seen @
https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Sd/-
S.Narayana Naik
Superintending Engineer
I.B, TB Board, TB Dam

Ph: 08394 - 259114
Email: seibtbb@yahoo.com

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-17/4013/2025-26 Date: 20.03.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work :

Name of the Work : 1) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of "Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of AABR Technology 0.5MLD Capacity STP including 10 year Maintenance at Canara Plastic Park, Canara Industrial Area Mangaluru Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District (2nd Call). **2)** Project Management Consultancy Services for Construction and commissioning of 600 KLD Common Effluent Treatment Plant with ZLD facilities on Turnkey Basis including operation and Maintenance of entire system for 05 years at Baikampady Industrial Area, Dakshina Kannada District (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **06.04.2026** upto **04.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/6378/Zen/2025-26

Shivamogga Mahanagara Palike, Shivamogga
Executive Engineer, Electrical Division
No.: SMNPS/E.E./Electrical/D/M/CR:23/25-26 D: 18.03.2026

Tender Notice

Through e-Procurement www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Short-Term Tender. Last date and time for submission of Tender: 26.03.2026 10.30 AM

Date and time for opening the Tender: 27.03.2026 10.35 AM

Sl.No.1. Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 56573 Work of Providing Electricity Connection to 22 TPD and 50 TPD Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Unit being constructed at Anupinakatte Village under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 in the limits of Shivamogga Mahanagara Palike. **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 1026596.24 **EMD Amount In Rs.:** 26000.00

Sl.No.2. Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/SE7463 Providing vehicles along with driver on hire basis for Shivamogga City Corporation (3 numbers A/C Cars and 12 numbers Non A/C Cars) - Package 1 **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 6541920.00 **EMD Amount In Rs.:** 164000.00

Sl.No. 3. Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/SE7240 DESIGN, FABRICATING, DEVELOPMENT, INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTANANCE OF ILLUMINATED ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS AT BUS SHELTERS OF SHIVAMOGGA CITY CORPORATION **Amount put to Tender (in Rs.):** 1275000.00 **EMD Amount In Rs.:** 32000.00

Note: Information regarding participation in the Tender Process can be obtained from website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details the office of The Executive Engineer (E) can be contacted during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E) Shivamogga Mahanagara Palike, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/121/03/2061

Bypolls: BJP ahead in candidate selection, Congress weighs options

The byelections have been necessitated owing to the death of incumbent MLAs H.Y. Meti in Bagalkot and Shamanur Shivashankarappa in Davangere; both served as Ministers during Siddaramaiah's previous tenure as Chief Minister

Girish Pattanashetti and Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
HUBBALLI/BELAGAVI

As the nomination process for the by-elections to Bagalkot and Davangere South constituencies has begun, BJP has taken its first step forward by announcing the party candidates, while Congress is yet to finalise its candidates and seems to be under pressure as of now.

The bypolls have been necessitated owing to the deaths of incumbent MLAs Hullappa Yamanappa Meti in Bagalkot and Shamanur Shivashankarappa in Davangere. Both served as Ministers during Siddaramaiah's previous tenure as Chief Minister.

After the notification on the bypolls, the State BJP announced Veerabhadrayya Charantimath as its candidate for Bagalkot and Srinivas T. Dasakariyappa for Davangere South. Both Mr. Charantimath and Mr. Srinivas filed their first set of nominations on Friday. They will file another set of nomination papers on March 23, after taking out a large procession with State leaders of the BJP.

However, the ruling Congress party is yet to finalise candidates in both the constituencies.

Samarth Shamanur Mallikarjun, son of Horticulture Minister S.S. Mallikarjun, filing his nomination for the byelection to Davangere South Assembly Constituency in Davangere on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The State BJP announced Veerabhadrayya Charantimath as its candidate for Bagalkot and Srinivas T. Dasakariyappa for Davangere South

Feud within party

Although it has been decided that the Meti family would get the ticket, the feud among Mr. Meti's children, three of four of whom are aspirants, is troubling the party. Mahadevi Meti, who had announced she would file nominations as an Independent candidate, has mellowed down after a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a close friend of her father. Her siblings – elder sister Bayakka and brothers Mallikarjun and Umesh – met the Chief Minister in Bengaluru on March 18.

"While Mallikarjun, Umesh, and Bayakka said that they would abide by the decision of the Chief Minister, Mahadevi is said to have demanded that the ticket may either be given to her or her brother Umesh. The Chief Minister assured them that the ticket would go to a member of the family and advised them to stop fighting and back the party nominee in one voice," a senior Congress leader from Bagalkot said.

Meanwhile, party sources said a survey has found that the party cannot bank on the sympathy factor that could arise out of Mr. Meti's death. A senior leader said that this would be one of the factors that the Congress leaders would have to contend with.

In Davangere South too, the party seems to be weighing its options over fielding a member of the Shamanur family, even as pressure from the demographically dominant Muslim community is increasing to choose a leader from the community.

According to political observers, the demand for representation from the Muslim community is not something new in the constituency and has been raised during the previous elections too. But this time, the demand for a Muslim candidate from Davangere South has gained more weight as Muslim organisations in various districts have raised the issue through press conferences and also within the party circle. Abdul Jabbar, Congress MLC, has also expressed his intention to contest from Davangere South.

March 23 is the last date for filing nomination papers for elections to be held on April 9. Votes will be counted on May 4.

Shamanur's grandson jumps the gun

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/BELAGAVI

Even before the official announcement, Mines and Geology Minister S.S. Mallikarjun's son (Shamanur Shivashankarappa's grandson), Samarth, filed his nomination papers on Friday for Davangere South – both as an Independent and as a prospective Congress nominee – without the party's 'B' form.

It sent out a clear indication that the family does not want to lose its control over the constituency.

Congress faces internal rift over choice of candidates in Davangere South, Bagalkot

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Factional politics is likely to intensify within the ruling Congress ahead of bypolls to the Davangere South and Bagalkot Assembly constituencies, as the party struggles to arrive at a consensus on candidates.

With differences persisting, Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka, rushed to Bengaluru on Friday and held discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar to finalise candidates.

The party is expected to announce its nominees over the weekend after clearance from the high command.

The last date for filing nominations for the April 9 elections is Monday, while withdrawals can be made until Thursday.

AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala holding discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Friday.

Davangere South

Friday saw Mines and Geology Minister S.S. Mallikarjun's son Samarth filing his nomination, without being named by the party. If officially nominated, he is expected to refile his papers on Monday.

Mr. Samarth expressed confidence that he will secure the Congress ticket. "I filed my nomination on Friday as it was an auspicious day. I will file my nomination again on Monday along with State leaders," he said.

In the 2023 Assembly elections, Mr. Samanth's grandfather, Shamanur Shivashankarappa, whose death has necessitated the bypoll, had defeated BJP candidate B.G. Ajay Kumar by a margin of 27,888 votes. Prabha Mallikarjun, wife of Mr. Mallikarjun, currently represents the constituency in Parliament.

The early filing of the nomination has not gone down well with sections of the minority community, which constitutes nearly 30% of the electorate (an estimated around 60,000 voters) in the constituency.

B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, Housing Minister, Abdul Jabbar, Congress MLC, and several local leaders have demanded that the party field a candidate from the Muslim community. However, Mr. Mallikarjun is reportedly lobbying strongly for his son's candidature to retain the family's hold over the seat. Some Congress leaders, including Basavaraju V. Shivaganga, MLA, have also supported the demand for a minority candidate.

The BJP has fielded Srinivas Dasakariyappa, State vice-president of its ST Morcha, from the constituency.

Bagalkot

In Bagalkot, the Congress faces internal differences within the family of late H.Y. Meti over the choice of candidate.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held discussions with Meti's children to arrive at a consensus, but differences have persisted.

As Meti, whose death has necessitated the bypoll, belongs to the Kuruba community, the byelection is seen as politically significant for the Chief Minister.

Though the results may not affect the government's stability, the party's chances of victory will improve if it contains factionalism in both constituencies, sources in the party said.

High command will decide on Cabinet reshuffle: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As several senior MLAs of the ruling Congress have been seeking cabinet berths, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Friday that any decision on it will be taken only by the Congress high command and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Dr. Parameshwara, who supported legislators' right to express their desires, said, "It is natural to have aspirations, and there is nothing wrong in seeking a ministerial post. What is wrong with MLAs asking for an opportunity? However, it is up to the high command to decide also the Chief Minister's discretion," he said. The Minister said the high command would look into legislators' demands and decide what needs to be done at an appropriate time.

G. Parameshwara. FILE PHOTO

> It is natural to have aspirations, and there is nothing wrong in seeking a ministerial post
> **G. PARAMESHWARA**
> Home Minister

Several Congress legislators, who have served as MLAs for over three terms, on March 17 urged Mr. Siddaramaiah to undertake a Cabinet reshuffle and give them an opportunity to serve as Ministers.

A week ago, senior Congress MLAs held a dinner meeting and decided to go to Delhi, after the Budget session of the Legislature, to put pressure on the high command to direct the Chief Minister to undertake a Cabinet reshuffle. They have been demanding the induction of at least 20 senior MLAs during the reshuffle.

Workshop on cybercrime investigations held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security hosted a two-day workshop on 'Advanced Cybercrime Investigations' as part of the CySeck Annual Cybersecurity Conference, training 60 police personnel from across Karnataka.

Main topics

The programme focused on enhancing investigative capabilities in response to the rapidly evolving cyber threat landscape. Key topics included cybercrime decoding and evidence building, threat intelligence and DNS security, financial fraud involving money mules, blockchain and cryptocurrency crimes, AI-driven investigations, and ransomware analysis using OSINT techniques.

The initiative aimed to equip law enforcement officers with practical tools and advanced knowledge to effectively prevent, detect, and respond to sophisticated cyber offences. The training is expected to significantly strengthen Karnataka's overall cybercrime response and enforcement capabilities.

PNB opens new branches

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Punjab National Bank has opened new branches in Bengaluru on Friday. The bank's newly opened branches are in K.R. Puram, Hennur Road, Anekal and J.P. Nagar (Kothnur).

The branches will offer a range of banking services, like customer-oriented savings and current accounts, retail loan, gold loan, and more.

State mandates weekly reviews, control rooms to tackle rural drinking water shortage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has intensified efforts to address drinking water shortages in rural areas during the summer, with coordinated measures aimed at ensuring timely intervention and effective management, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, and Information Technology & Biotechnology.

As part of the measures, all zilla panchayat CEOs have been directed to hold mandatory review meetings with Panchayat Development Officers (PDOs) on the second and fourth Mondays for the next three months to assess ground-level realities. In addition, district authorities will conduct press briefings on the second and fourth Tuesdays to keep the public informed about actions taken, according to a release on Friday.

Priyank Kharge. FILE PHOTO

"To strengthen preparedness, we have instructed all districts to establish 24/7 control rooms with dedicated staff and to constitute Rapid Task Forces at the taluk level for immediate response to drinking water issues," Mr. Kharge added. Officials have also been directed to undertake 100% physical inspection of drinking water sources in rural habitation areas. Measures have been outlined to prevent contamination, including ensuring proper drainage around borewells, preventing stagnation of wastewater, and constructing protective concrete platforms around water sources.

"Officials must take steps to educate villagers on maintaining hygiene and managing water resources effectively," the Minister said. As summer conditions lead to drying up of water sources and reduced borewell yield, drinking water shortages have already been reported in several rural parts of the State.

To effectively manage the situation, officials have been instructed to conduct physical verification of all water sources, prevent contamination near borewells through proper drainage systems, ensure protective infrastructure around water sources, and create awareness among villagers on water safety and conservation.

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HANGAL
No:TMC/HNL/Eng/15th/SFC/SFCspl//Vahi/2025-26 Date:18-03-2026

Tender Notification

Karnataka Municipal Act 1964 Karnataka Public on behalf of the Governor of the State As per Procurement Transparency Act 2000 As per 2022-23, 2024-2515th Finance, 2026-25 SFC, 2022-23 SFC SPL and Lake grant Scheme for **242.41** Lakhs Estimated Paper Prepared E-Procurement Tenders from Eligible Contractors in Single Envelope/Two-Envelope Mode KW-1 & KW-2 tenders are invited from qualified grade contractors registered with the Locopayogi Department and e-procurement portal for kppp-procurement tender documents through departmental website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ to apply online on the date mentioned below. **(KPPP-Procurment)**

Sl No	INDENT No	Estimate Value (in Lakhs)	EMD Amount	Reservation	NIT Published Date	Last Date Tender Closure
1	DMA/2025-26/wt/WORK_INDENT51788/CALL-2 (Lake grant)	765000.00	19125.00	Gen	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53784/CALL-2(2025-26 SFC (CA-IIA)	326000.00	4075.00	CAT-II(A)	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
3	DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT26102/CALL-2(2024-25 15th FC (SC)	1000000.00	12500.00	SC	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
4	DMA2025-26RDWORK_INDENT56490(2022-23 15th FC (ST)	650000.00	8125.00	ST	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
5	DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT17252/CALL-2(SFC Spl Others)	8000000.00	160000.00	GEN	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
6	DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT17255/CALL-2(SFC Spl ST)	4000000.00	40000.00	ST	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
7	DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT17262/CALL-2(SFC Spl (SC)	4500000.00	45000.00	SC	26-03-2026	27-03-2026
7	DMA/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT17264/CALL-2(SFC Spl (Others)	5000000.00	125000.00	Gen	26-03-2026	27-03-2026

DIPR/Haveri/KSMCA/828/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC, Hangal**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

17th ANNIVERSARY

S. GOPAL
1932 - 2009
Not a single day passes by
Without your thought,
We owe it to you
For what we are today.
Bhuvaneshwari Constructions (P) Ltd.
Madipakkam, Chennai - 600 091.
98410-43410 / 98410-43332

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

28th Death Anniversary
Our loving respect to

K.VASUDEVAN
09.10.1941 - 21.03.1998
"We will remember you as an epitome of humility and dedication"
Remembrance by: Children, Daughters-in-law, Brother, Sister & Families

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY
Professor K.R.Rajagopal
Distinguished Professor, Texas A & M University
Distinguished Professor, IIT Madras

1950 - 2025
Forever in our Hearts & Minds,
Chandrika Rajagopal
Keshava & Shilpa Rajagopal
Sudarshan & Kavita Rajagopal
Grandchildren and Family

Telangana govt. presents ₹3.24 lakh crore budget

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government has introduced a massive budget of ₹3.24 lakh crore for the financial year 2026-27. The budget projects a total revenue expenditure of ₹2.34 lakh crore and capital expenditure of ₹47,267 crore, more than 20% higher than the current (financial year 2025-26) budget. Revenue receipts during the fiscal (2026-27) are pegged at ₹2.41 lakh crore, up almost 20% as compared to the ₹2.03 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Tax revenue for the next fiscal is estimated at ₹1.48 lakh crore, about 10% higher than the ₹1.34 lakh crore (revised estimates) and non-tax revenue is estimated at ₹35,730 crore, indicating the possibility of the Government opting for measures like sale of lands to augment the revenue receipts. In the tax revenue, the State is hopeful of significant rise in the Excise duties projected at ₹27,668 crore, ₹4,000 crore higher than the current year's ₹23,623 crore.

As expected, the State has decided to opt for open market borrowings to the tune of ₹73,383 crore and loans from Government of India are expected to be ₹5,500 crore. With loans from other sources amounting to ₹1,000 crore, the total borrowings for 2026-27 reached closer to ₹80,000 crore.

The State's share in Central taxes for the year is projected at ₹33,181 crore.

Pregnant woman, baby among 8 killed in Salem accident

The driver, Ayyandurai of Periya Vanavasi in Salem, lost control of the vehicle, which veered to the opposite side of the highway and collided with a two-wheeler and a pick-up van

The Hindu Bureau
SALEM

The bus which was involved in the accident at Uthamacholapuram on Friday. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

A pregnant woman and an 11-month-old baby were among eight people killed in a multi-vehicle collision near Utamasolapuram, on the Salem-Coimbatore National Highway, in Salem district on Friday. Four others were injured.

Around 11 a.m., a government bus bound for Salem from Erode, with more than 30 passengers, suffered a brake failure.

The driver, Ayyandurai, 49, of Periya Vanavasi in Salem, lost control of the vehicle, which veered to the opposite side of the highway and collided with a two-wheeler and a pick-up van. The van was transporting 11 people from Neikarapatti to Kalparapatti for a temple festival.

Four people died on the spot, while eight others sustained grievous injuries.

Among those killed in the pickup van were Selvaraj, 60, of Neikarapatti; his granddaughters Jeevika, aged 11 months, and Nithishka, 5; his daughter-in-law Sathya, 25, who was three months pregnant; and relatives Amutha and Murugan. Selvaraj's son Meganathan, 23, who was driving the van, was among the injured. He is undergoing treatment at a private hospital along with three others. The police identified the other deceased as S. Manikandan, 21, a second-year college student, and his mother S. Irusayee, 50, of Santhanakarankadu near Puthur, who were travelling on a two-wheeler to a nearby hospital at the time of the accident. The Kondalampatti police arrived at the spot, conducted inquiries, and sent the bodies to the Salem Government Hospital for postmortem.

The bus driver fled the scene, but was apprehended within an hour and arrested. The police are also questioning the bus conductor, Balakrishnan, 46. Traffic on the National Highway was disrupted for more than an hour after the accident.

Relief flight from Saudi to reach Kerala tomorrow

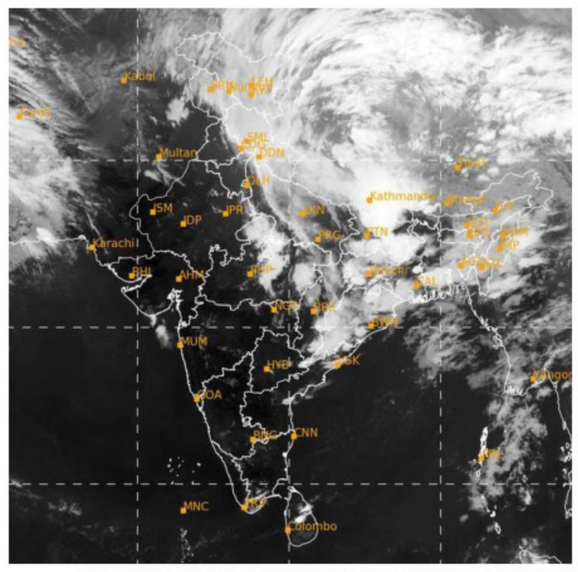
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A relief/chartered Gulf Air flight with passengers from various cities is scheduled to reach Thiruvananthapuram on March 22, from Saudi Arabia. A few days ago, the pravasi outfits in Bahrain arranged a chartered flight to Kerala via Dammam in Saudi Arabia in the absence of scheduled flight services from Bahrain.

Although the emergency movement of stranded transit passengers in various West Asian locations was nearly complete, the absence of scheduled flights from countries like Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar has been affecting the emergency travel plans of expats to and from the State.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Sikkim and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.4	21.6	Kozhikode	—	35.8	25.2
Ahmedabad	2	31.4	18.5	Kurnool	—	36.9	23.7
Aizawl	13.1	28.6	18.2	Lucknow	—	23.5	20.3
Allahabad	3	28.4	20.5	Madurai	0.9	37.5	23.5
Bengaluru	—	32.0	19.9	Mangaluru	—	32.8	23.6
Bhopal	1	29.4	16.6	Mumbai	—	31.3	21.1
Bhubaneswar	—	35.2	23.0	Mysuru	—	33.0	18.0
Chandigarh	8.6	18.8	14.8	New Delhi	7	21.7	16.0
Chennai	—	34.7	24.7	Patna	—	33.6	24.0
Coimbatore	2	34.4	22.2	Port Blair	—	30.4	25.6
Dehradun	15.9	17.4	16.9	Puducherry	—	33.2	24.8
Gangtok	9	17.6	11.4	Pune	—	36.9	20.2
Goa	—	33.6	22.0	Raipur	—	33.4	21.0
Guwahati	—	24.6	19.5	Ranchi	—	33.2	19.1
Hubballi	—	33.0	20.0	Shillong	—	18.7	12.5
Hyderabad	—	34.0	20.8	Shimla	29	8.4	6.6
Imphal	1.6	28.3	14.0	Srinagar	10	14.0	6.3
Jaipur	13	26.0	16.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.1	24.7
Kochi	—	32.4	26.4	Tiruchi	13	36.0	22.0
Kohima	—	21.9	13.0	Vijayawada	—	34.7	26.2
Kolkata	—	32.4	25.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.5	23.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.74	..83	31	... 118	...101	
Bengaluru	...2	..26	23	 73	...152	
Chennai	.15	8	32	 21	49	
Delhi	.14	..94	42	... 157	...175	
Hyderabad	.15	..16	28	 57	82	
Kolkata	.20	..34	37	 44	58	
Lucknow	.14	..39	30	... 110	...142	
Mumbai	.14	..13	23	 38	93	
Pune	..—	..71	79	 59	70	
Visakhapatnam	.22	..67	18	 35	94	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 195 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Pampore, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

3 students drown in Godavari, two missing

The Hindu Bureau
KUKUNOOR

Local residents retrieved the bodies of three students and a search is under way for the two missing students. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

Three students drowned in the Godavari River at Kunavaram village in Etapaka mandal of Polavaram, along the Andhra Pradesh-Telangana border on Friday, while two more went missing.

"The three victims, all natives of Bhadrachalam and Madanapalle, were pursuing engineering at SRM University," said Eluru District Superintendent of Police K. Pratap Shiva Kishore.

A group of seven students went to Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Vaari Devastanam on a trip. After darshan, they went to the river to take a dip, the SP said.

"They parked their car on the riverbank and entered the water. Five of them, identified as P. Satish Kumar, G. Teja, Navdeep, P. Abhiram and Ch. Srikar, were caught in the swirling water while two students, identified as Deepak and Harsha swam to the shore," Polavaram Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) M. Venkateswara Rao said.

The local residents retrieved the bodies of Abhiram, Srikar and Navdeep. A search is on for Satish Kumar and Teja.

The bodies would be shifted to Bhadrachalam Government Hospital for post-mortem, the SP said.

CM reviews situation

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu gathered details about the incident.

Expressing concern, he directed the officials to intensify the search operations.

Mr. Naidu conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and assured them that the State government would extend full support to them.

INBRIEF

Muppidi Avinash Reddy gets bail in A.P. liquor 'scam' case

The Supreme Court on Friday granted regular bail to Muppidi Avinash Reddy, an accused in the alleged Andhra Pradesh multi-crore liquor 'scam'. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant invoked plenary powers of the top court under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant relief to Mr. Reddy. The court said the regular bail would continue during the pendency of the trial proceedings in the case. Mr. Avinash Reddy was charged with playing a vital role in collecting kickbacks and distributing money in the scam.

T.N. records 51 raptor species in first State-wide survey

Tamil Nadu has recorded 51 species of birds of prey in its first State-wide scientific raptor assessment, which provides a snapshot of their distribution and status.

The assessment was conducted by the Forest Department during January-February this year under the guidance of the Tamil Nadu Raptor Research Foundation at the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC). It documents a range of raptor species, including several that are rare or threatened.

Tourist rescued after falling over 100 feet in the Nilgiris

A tourist from Chengalpattu who fell more than 100 feet while taking a selfie at Needle Rock View Point near Gudalur was successfully rescued after an all-night operation by the army, with assistance from the Nilgiris district police, fire and rescue services, and Forest Department personnel. Sivagurunathan, fell on Thursday evening and could not be rescued immediately as he had suffered fractures that left him incapacitated. T First responders kept him calm, provided him with food and warmth, and awaited assistance from the army personnel stationed at the Wellington military cantonment, who reached on Thursday night.

Joyous spectacle

Ritual rounds: Youth sit on bullock carts and go round the Sri Chowdeswari Devi temple in Kallur on the suburbs of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, as part of the annual Jathara on Friday. U. SUBRAMANYAM

CBI books officials for fraud in student disability scholarship

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against government officials and private individuals in eight States, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, for allegedly siphoning off ₹11.41 crore meant for disbursing scholarships to students with disabilities.

The funds were fraudulently drawn in the names of fictitious beneficiaries purportedly studying in various colleges across the country, including two in Tamil Nadu.

The case stems from a complaint filed in December 2023 under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

Based on the complaint, the CBI initiated a preliminary inquiry into alleged irregularities in the disbursement of funds under the 'Umbrella Scholarship Scheme'.

Physical verification

The CBI's Anti-Corruption Unit, Delhi, conducted physical verification of around 100 educational institutions. The agency found that 18 colleges were either non-existent or not registered on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), or had no students with disabilities receiving scholarships.

Kerala Assembly polls: defections from Cong. to BJP continue

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Defections from the Congress party to the BJP continued on Friday, with two Youth Congress leaders joining the BJP.

BJP State president, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, welcomed B.S. Anoop, former Thiruvananthapuram district president of Dalit Congress, into the party. Mr. Anoop had contested the 2021 Assembly elections from the Chirayinkeezhu constituency on a UDF ticket and is likely to be fielded by the BJP from the same seat in the upcoming election.

Another Youth Congress leader, R.S. Arunraj, a former executive committee member of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee, also joined the BJP on Friday.

At a press conference addressed by Mr. Chandrasekhar here on Friday, both Mr. Anoop and Mr. Arunraj expressed their anger and anguish at being "disregarded" by the Congress despite the long years they had put in as faithful party workers. Mr. Anoop said that despite his links with people of Chirayinkeezhu, he was never made part of any discussions to decide the candidate there.

Mr. Anoop particularly expressed his discontent over the Congress's decision to field Ramya Haridas from Chirayinkeezhu and alleged that the party no longer stood for the downtrodden and vulnerable sections of society.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar flags off BJP's campaign vehicles in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The two leaders further criticised the Congress for "laying out the red carpet" for CPI(M) leaders from Kannur, including T.K. Govindan and V. Kunhikrishnan, whom they accused of being part of the violent political culture associated with the CPI(M) in Kannur.

Mr. Chandrasekhar pointed out that in the last one month alone several senior members of both Congress and the CPI(M) had joined BJP and that the CPI(M) had been showing much intolerance towards them. Three former MLAs of the Left parties – C.C Mukundan (Nattika), K. Ajith (Vaikom) and S. Rajendran (Devikulam) were now contesting the 2026 elections on BJP tickets in the same constituencies, he added.

He said that people were becoming fed up with both political fronts in Kerala and that NDA's results in the upcoming elections would be nothing short of phenomenal. Mr. Chandrasekhar claimed that the NDA would pull off an unexpected win in one of the Assembly seats and added cryptically that everything would be clear on May 4.

Seat-sharing in Cong. done without discord: Satheesan

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Friday said the UDF has announced all 140 candidates at the "fastest pace in its history," asserting that the coalition would return to power in Kerala with over 100 seats despite "the sustained campaign of fake news".

Mr. Satheesan said that the seat-sharing process was completed "without a single discordant note".

Renewal vs change

Each Dravidian alliance bets the TVK will hurt the other

In a country where the Hindutva right wing has held not just an ascendant but a hegemonic position across States, Tamil Nadu remains one of the striking exceptions. It is probably the only State where the BJP is a marginal player despite a favourable religious demographic that has helped its politics elsewhere. This owes much to the political idiom of social justice and Tamil identity that has limited political competition to the two Dravidian parties for decades, with national forces reduced to junior partners. The Dravidian-dominated party system has been sustained due to these parties' capability to combine welfare with development, even as competitive welfarism has entrenched caste-based patronage networks and corruption that drives political variables. As he seeks re-election for the DMK, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will bank on the idea that his party's "Dravidian Model" has been beneficial. In the last five years, Tamil Nadu has managed impressive GSDP growth rates – the country's highest (11.9%) among major States in 2025-26 - and become an industrial powerhouse. The DMK will also seek to capitalise on the popularity of its welfare measures, especially the cash transfer to poor women scheme. Yet, beneath this macro picture lie issues that the Opposition will harp on: corruption at various levels of governance has fuelled discontent beyond sections that have not benefited from welfare.

Former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, now the undisputed leader of the AIADMK after years of factional intrigue following the death of J. Jayalalithaa, leads the Opposition charge in alliance with the BJP and the PMK alongside others. The alliance does not bill itself as an ideological coalition unlike the DMK-led alliance, and also carries internal contradictions such as incorporating the AIADMK-breakaway, the AMMK. But its strategy is to let the concentrated votes of the PMK (in the north), the BJP (in the south and western belt) and the AMMK (pockets in the delta and southern regions) accrue to itself. Mr. Palaniswami must also manage the BJP's ambition to expand its share among contested seats lest the party eat into the AIADMK's base. The ideologically taut DMK-led alliance with the Congress, Left, the VCK and smaller parties has helped it secure parliamentary, Assembly and local body wins in the last decade. But the steady growth of Seeman's NTK and the emergence of a wildcard in the actor Vijay-led TVK could complicate the contest. If the TVK splits the anti-incumbency votes, it would benefit the DMK-led coalition. But if the Vijay-led party manages to win over youth and minority religious community votes, it could equally hurt the ruling coalition. The outcome will determine whether the Dravidian framework that has kept the BJP at the margins can hold in an increasingly fragmented arena.

Restoring rights

Adoptive mothers have the same rights as biological mothers

Courts with a tinge of judicial activism have expansively interpreted the Constitution to secure fresh rights for citizens, over the years. In the latest instance, a view that encompasses evolving social systems, and a keen feminist perspective, taken by the highest court in the land, has recognised maternity leave for working women as a basic human right. The Court ruled that adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, regardless of the child's age at the time of adoption, thus striking down a previous restriction allowing maternity leave only for women who had applied for adopting children less than three months of age. The judgment, delivered by Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, came in response to petitioner Hamsaanandini Nanduri challenging this provision in the Maternity Benefit Act, recently replaced by the Code on Social Security. She also pointed out that the legal process of adoption itself took over three months to be completed. The judges observed that an adoptive mother had the same rights and obligations towards the child as a biological mother. Reading adoption as an 'expression of reproductive autonomy', the Court said that the emotional bond with the child has to be consciously nurtured through time, presence and sustained caregiving. "Adoption is an equally valid pathway for the creation of a family. It is not biology that constitutes a family of a mother, father, and children, rather, it is the shared meaning, responsibility, and emotional bonds that sustain such a relationship," it explained. Maternity benefit is extended to working women during the early phase of motherhood to support them financially and provide economic security without them having to depend on family members. This equally applies to biological and adoptive mothers. Further, the judges urged the government to legally recognise paternity leave as a social security benefit, noting that parenthood is not a solitary function performed by one parent alone.

The judges have, with one judgment, conferred equal rights to adoptive parents, and restored child rearing to a gender-neutral parenting paradigm. The patriarchal enabling system has feminised raising children, leading to it being undervalued or inadequately compensated, if it ever is. Nobel winner Claudia Goldin's work has identified that the gender pay gap often emerges with the birth of a first child. The top court has given India an opportunity to set right the inadequate laws governing maternity leave in adoption, and to a large extent, the gender imbalance in society. It is the duty now of the state to make sure that this progressive judgment finds effective implementation in every corner of the country.

India's Iran stance does fuel a foreign policy debate

Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

is a former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and a former Special Envoy of India for West Asia

A debate, for the most part civilised, is going on in India about foreign policy. The provocation for the debate is the ongoing Israeli-American war on Iran, now in its third week and India's response to it.

I belong to the tribe of 'professional' diplomats. We consider ourselves experts with special skills to propound on foreign policy issues. It is true that we are trained to read between the lines and to research whatever issue occupies the attention of the international community at a given time. However, it is not as if we are born with a particular gift for foreign policy; the gift or expertise is cultivated over a period of time. Almost anybody can handle foreign policy with experience and exposure to the issues. Everyone has an opinion on foreign policy, and it would not be correct to dismiss those opinions as ill-informed or irrelevant.

The two sides

The debate is argued between those who generally support the government's stand on the war, which began on February 28, and those who criticise it as weak-kneed or surrendering to the Americans, or as hostile to Iran, a close and civilisational friend. The deliberate decision not to condole the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has come in for particular criticism.

Foreign policy is an instrument in the hands of the government to protect and promote the country's national interests. It follows that it is within the province of the government of the day to define what the national interests are and how to protect them. Some interests are sui generis, such as defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. For a country such as India, the improvement in the standard of living of its citizens is an extremely important objective.

In a highly globalised and interdependent world, this task imposes on the government the duty to chart its policy with deliberation and calculation. A government led by one party may take one position whereas a government led by another party may take another. The same party may take one position when in opposition but might pursue that very policy when in power. The Congress-led government under Manmohan Singh decided that obtaining the nuclear deal with America was in India's interest whereas the Bharatiya Janata Party at the time opposed the deal. Once in power, it went beyond what even the previous government had not agreed; it absolved the suppliers of nuclear reactors from any liability, for accident or defect in the reactors.

New Delhi's Iran policy may be influenced by U.S.–Israel dynamics in the war

Foreign policy often is, but should not be, influenced by the ideological orientation of the ruling party. If it is to adhere strictly to the objective of promoting national interest, it cannot afford to be too concerned about principles or rights and wrongs. At times, a particular position might offend our sense of justice or morality, but the government of the day will have to make an objective decision, even if it is not popular.

Equally important, the government must explain to the people the rationale for its decision. In a democracy, this is extremely important. People, certainly the Indian people, are fully capable of understanding and approving or disapproving of the government's actions.

Labels and policy

Much time and intellectual energy is spent on giving a label to foreign policy. The one currently in fashion is 'strategic autonomy'. By adding the word 'strategic', it sounds profound and gives the impression of a concept beyond the understanding of ordinary citizens. But then, why 'autonomy'? Why not 'independent'? Is not independence more precious than autonomy? P.V. Narasimha Rao used to say that Kashmiris can have as much autonomy as they want, but not independence. In any case, why give any label at all? How many countries have given adjectives to their foreign policy? If a name has to be given, just call it 'independent'.

The best definition of foreign policy was given by Jawaharlal Nehru in a letter to Einstein written a few weeks before India's independence. Foreign policy, Nehru wrote, essentially is selfish. The only principle it follows is the principle of national interest.

The Narendra Modi government is essentially following Nehru's foreign policy, that is 'selfish' foreign policy. Its approach to the Iran war seems to be based on a cold calculation that India has too much at stake with America and the Gulf states. America is India's largest trading partner, and India needs its support for state-of-the-art technology, especially for developing India's defence capabilities. As for the Gulf countries, nearly 10 million Indians are working there. Their welfare is of overriding concern. They send hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of remittances back home. Collectively, the Gulf countries are a most valuable source for India's energy needs.

Application of 'strategic autonomy'

These are valid considerations. Nevertheless, within the parameters of these factors, the government could and should have shown some 'strategic autonomy'. No harm would have been done if the assassination of Ayatollah Khamenei had been condoled or if the External Affairs Minister rather than the Foreign Secretary had signed the condolence book in the Iranian Embassy in Delhi. Since the Prime Minister did speak to the Iranian President to press for the safety of the 9,000-strong Indian community in Iran, would it not have been proper for him to also express condolences for the assassination?

His telephone conversations with the leaders of the Gulf states would surely have ensured their support to take care of India's citizens living there. The fact that Iran has allowed oil tankers destined for India safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz speaks not so much to the success of India's diplomacy as to the graciousness of the Iranians. Despite India's unfriendly attitude, Iran took a friendly approach towards India. In the final analysis, India needs to be on the winning side. The government has obviously concluded that the Israeli-American coalition will come out the winner and that Iran will be defeated or surrender.

There is also the question of the Prime Minister's visit to Israel (February 25-26, 2026), its timing more than the visit per se. It was evident from watching his address to the Israeli Knesset that he was deeply moved by the warm reception that was accorded to him by its members. His visit was a demonstration of the ideological affinity that he feels with Israel and, more so with its Prime Minister. That Israel and the U.S. were going to attack Iran any day was known to all those following such matters. The timing of the visit was unfortunate.

Let the debate continue.

'Undemocratic' politics in Great Nicobar over land

Pankaj Sekhsaria

is the author/editor of seven books on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the latest being 'The Great Nicobar Betrayal' (Frontline Magazine, 2024) and 'Island on Edge – The Great Nicobar Crisis' (2025)

On January 18 this year a Great Nicobar Island based online news portal, www.nicobartimes.com, published an important news item related to the mega-infrastructure project on the island that has been headline news across the country for many months now. This particular issue has, however, barely been noticed, leave alone creating anything close to even a ripple.

The report, "DEF-GNI Objects to Low Minimum Circle Rates Fixed for Villages of Campbell Bay Tehsil, Seeks Revision Ahead of Airport Land Acquisition", highlighted the grievances of the Great Nicobar's settler (non-tribal) community in the matter of the compensation being awarded for their land that is being acquired for the mega-project under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013. About 300 families of ex-servicemen were settled in Great Nicobar between 1969 and 1975 for which about 40 square kilometres were de-notified from the Tribal Reserve. The descendants of these settlers now form the majority of the population here. "The Dependents and Ex-Servicemen Forum for Equitable Negotiation, Compensation & Entitlements - Great Nicobar Island (DEF-GNI)", the report noted, "has raised strong objections to the minimum circle rates fixed for villages under Campbell Bay Tehsil, terming them unreasonably low and unjust."

Inadequate compensation

At the heart of the matter is the low rates of compensation, ranging from ₹113 to ₹180 per square metre, they are being offered as against the ₹11,370 - ₹20,500 per square metre offered in the Andaman islands when land is acquired for tourism projects. The forum requested that the rates be fixed in a manner that ensures a minimum compensation of not less than ₹1 crore per acre of agricultural land to affected landowners.

The matter has also been raised regularly by the lone Member of Parliament (MP) from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bishnu Pada Ray of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In December, he had written to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister making a number of related points: that the land was being acquired from ex-servicemen settler families who were originally brought here by the government to serve strategic and national security purposes; these families had already faced two major displacements, one during the initial settlement and then again after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami; there were major procedural violations in the land acquisition process; there were serious deficiencies in the social impact assessment carried out for this land, and that compensation being offered should be ₹32 lakh per hectare as against ₹9 lakh being offered currently.

Inequities arise between settler families and original islanders over land compensation for the Great Nicobar mega-infrastructure project

There are two things that stand out: first the claim makers – the MP included – are explicit that they, the settler families, are not opposing the project. Their only request is adherence to due process and ensuring that no family is left without land or livelihood.

The second is the deep contradiction at the heart of (un)democratic representation and politics here: the settler community and their representatives, while seen seeking fairness and justice over their own land, are also collaborating with the same authorities in alienating land, livelihood and the resources of Great Nicobar's tribal communities (the Shompen and the Great Nicobarese) to make it available for the same project.

Alienating tribal lands

In a process marked by serious substantive and procedural impropriety, nearly 84 sq.km of legally notified tribal reserve is sought to be denotified and handed over to project authorities. Everyone from local agencies such as the Andaman and Nicobar Tribal Welfare Department, to the local settler communities, to national level bodies such as the Union Ministries of Environment and of Tribal Affairs have been complicit.

Evidence of this can be seen in the near-complete absence of the Shompen in discussions, the pressure being exerted on the Nicobarese to 'voluntarily' surrender their lands for the project, the public and vociferous support expressed by settlers and authorities, and the explicit violation of provisions of the Forest Rights Act, in which representatives of the settler community have signed documents freeing up tribal reserve land for the project.

Pertinent issues being ignored

No one can deny the right of the settlers to adequate compensation. But what about the original islanders such as the nomadic hunter gatherer Shompen that is notified as a particularly vulnerable tribal group, a PVTG? They may not want compensation because they have no use for the money we offer. What about the Nicobarese who wish to return to their traditional pre-tsunami lands and settlements but are not being provided the means to do so? And what of the impact on lives, livelihoods and cultures of these communities that are completely dependent on the sea and the forests? What also of the pristine forests and unique biodiversity that will be lost forever?

This situation underlines multiple things at the same time. On the ground it highlights the stark nature of (un)democratic local politics as adjacent communities are forced into competition and conflict over land and resources. At the macro level, it highlights how local communities and rights to resources are only minor pawns in the larger geo-political and development agendas of the state, of its larger political economy, and indeed the rhetoric of national sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

The contradictions might not be visible to the local settler communities or perhaps they do not have the agency or the choice. The same surely cannot be said for the state, the nation and for society at large. There is much for us to think about and ponder over.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The war in West Asia

History will record Donald Trump as the worst American President — one who has a penchant for indulging in warfare. His 'offensive capabilities', it seems, prompt him to resort to wars as a matter of routine. He has made a U-turn now by suggesting that Israel should not target Iran's oil refineries. But the question is this: who is he to dictate how wars must be fought and what strategies must be adopted? This shows him in a bad light. Now that America cannot wage a war against Iran, as such a move would lead to multiple unforeseen global complications, he is desperate to bring the war to an end. This may not be possible in the foreseeable future as both Iran and Israel have suffered. America's tacit involvement has become too obvious. Diplomatically, America is caught in the cross-fire, unable to extricate itself from the mess. It is clear that Mr. Trump does not have the political acumen to find the ways and the means to give a quietus to the war in West Asia.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

India's West Asia reset has been characterised as a "long-overdue recognition" of geopolitical shifts. However, this "realism" comes at the cost of erosion of India's strategic autonomy and its historical identity as a principled soft power. India's global stature was built on being a "benevolent soft power", not a transactional hard power. By yielding to western pressure on Iranian and Venezuelan oil, often at the cost of India's own strategic petroleum reserves and risking its energy security, India is moving away from the very "strategic autonomy" that it so loudly proclaims. A "confident power" does not take cues from Washington on its energy security, nor does it abandon the rupee-rial trade mechanisms that once bypassed the hegemony of the dollar. This is not a "reset". It is a retreat from the non-aligned sovereignty that made India an unanimously accepted leader of the Global South.

R. Vishakan,
Chennai

The deadly strikes on key infrastructure have already sent the global economy for a toss. Much water has flowed under the bridge since the start of the war on February 28. Any prolongation will spell doom for many countries. The U.S. President must display high statesmanship. The U.S. should eschew its belligerent and muscle flexing and set into motion deft diplomacy to bring about a ceasefire.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Crossover season

It is unfortunate that during elections, party-switching has become a routine feature, with politicians crossing over primarily for power and monetary gain. Some political parties engage in 'horse-trading' by recruiting candidates from rival parties for electoral advantage. In the run-up to the Assam Assembly elections, the BJP has fielded defectors from the Congress, who have not only betrayed their parent party but also the voters who had elected them on a Congress ticket Although an anti-defection law exists, it remains largely toothless in curbing such practices. Ultimately, it is up to voters to identify such turncoats and reject them when they seek votes.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

GROUND ZERO

Goa's residents stage a protest against land laws, at Azad Maidan in the capital city, Panaji, for a week in February. DHIRAJ GAUNS

From green to grey, in Goa

Goa's controversial Section 39A of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 2024, has triggered protests from residents. They claim that the law is opening large tracts of land that hold paddy fields, orchards, and forests to concretisation. This will impact the environment and local communities, resulting in water and electricity shortages and sewage treatment problems. **Snehal Mutha** examines how it will affect Goa's ecosystems and its people

As the evening settles in, a handful of villagers gather in front of a temple painted yellow in Goa's Palem village, about 10 kilometres from Panaji, the State capital. They are poring over crumpled zoning maps and copies of documents from the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Department.

The lanes of Palem have come alive with colours ahead of Shigmo, Goa's spring festival. Side by side, the village is adorned with banners of "Save Palem Siridao village; say no to change of zone (39A)" and in Kokani: "*Amchem udak amka zai* (Our water to us)".

In the group is Vasu Kankolikar (42), who says, "Several objections, suggestions, and appeals were made to the TCP, but they dismissed us. If we don't fight them, our green canopies will slowly turn into yellow, then red, and they will sell it to make it grey." Kankolikar is a resident of Palem and a former sarpanch.

He was one of at least 2,000, who sat in protest from February 21 to 27, moving from Palem to Panaji's Azad Maidan, a site of previous protests around the Act. Palem falls in St. Andre constituency, one of Goa's 40 Legislative Assembly seats. Viresh Borkar, the MLA from the Revolutionary Goans Party, along with others, sat on hunger strike and also protested outside TCP minister Vishwajit Rane's house in Dona Paula, less than 10 km from Panaji. Rane is part of the Bharatiya Janata Party, which has been part in power in Goa for 14 years now. Rane did not respond to queries.

The protest, and several like it over the past two years, has been against Goa's Section 39A, which came into force under the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 2024. The section allows for the changing of ecologically sensitive zones, such as forests, hills, and farmland, to settlements zones. This, feel Goans, will open green spaces to real-estate development, disrupt the ecology, harm the livelihoods of people like fisherfolk, and throw the State into a civic mess. Goa is a collection of 320 inhabited villages (2011 Census), across two districts, with only one city, its capital Panaji.

"The problem with Section 39A is that it destroys the concept of planning. Every property owner is now a planner for their plot and can decide what they want to construct," says Norma Alvares, lawyer and environmental activist based in Parra. "The regional plan (2011) was designed to protect Goa's ecology, with 83% of the land classified as eco-sensitive. While the regional plan identifies 17-18 categories of eco-sensitive zones, Section 39A recognises only seven." For instance, orchard zones, which are treated as ESZ-2 under the regional plan, where only restricted development is permitted, can be converted under Section 39A. ESZ-1 areas under the regional plan prohibit any development altogether.

In 2018, the Goa Assembly passed an amendment to the TCP Act, bringing in Section 16B that allows the chief town planner to change the zone in the regional plan. This was repealed in 2024, due to intense criticism. Meanwhile, Section 17(2) was introduced in March 2023. This allowed private owners to convert land they had bought by approaching the TCP department to "correct" any "inadvertent errors" in the regional plan. Owners could do this without public consultation. The Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court read down the amendment in April 2025.

> The problem with Section 39A is that every property owner is a planner for their plot and can decide what they want to construct
>
> **NORMA ALVARES**
> Lawyer and environmental activist

"Section 39A popped up in February 2024, taking further the legacy of land grab," says Neura-village-based architect and regional planner Tahir Noronha. He has compiled data from the Goa government's Gazette, and has found that applications have been submitted to the TCP department to convert 68 lakh square metres of land across Goa into settlement areas. Out of this, 13.6% has been unlocked already, he says.

Land locked

The strike ended on February 27. Protesters say Chief Minister Promod Sawant told them that he would suspend the land conversion proposals under the TCP Act for St. Andre constituency. He also allegedly said the three FIRs filed against the protestors would be scrapped. "The FIRs are not yet scrapped," says Manoj Parab, a protester who has been summoned to the Panaji police station.

The FIRs, filed between February 21 and 26, named Parab, Borkar, Kankolikar, and 1,500 unnamed people, citing "unlawful assembly" and missing documents from the TCP office. "If identified, there is a possibility for some to lose their government jobs or be transferred far away from home," says a man in his late 20s, standing in the group in front of the Palem temple, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Borkar says, "Our fight is to get 39A scrapped and introduce a Person of Goan Origin (POGO) Bill, prioritising locals. We also want laws for restrictions on selling of agricultural and forest land, and the Goa Panchayat Raj Act to define the scope of mega projects and approvals concerning it."

In Palem, Tushar Gawas (28), a resident, points to the pond and hills beyond. Scrolling through documents on his phone, he points out that there are applications at the TCP office for 84,137 sqm of land to be converted into settlement lands. "So far, 5,000 sqm has been approved and converted under 39A in Palem. Entire regional plan maps will turn into orange, showing settlements instead of green cover," Gawas says.

This means that individuals or companies can purchase land and apply for its conversion, allowing for construction of residences or commercial properties. The analysis shows Pernem alone – close to the Manohar International Airport – has 10.2 lakh sqm provisionally converted to settlement area. Noronha's data shows that so far, North Goa district is more affected than South Goa, by zone conversions.

"Basically, 39A allows big people to move without the villagers' consent. What people want is to discuss these projects in our Gram Sabhas. If a builder wants to bring a project to our village, that builder needs to come to the Gram Sabha instead of striking a deal at the ministerial level," says Noronha, highlighting that mostly large real estate companies are applying for 39A.

He says zone changing began in 1988. From then until 2006, the government added approximately 1.4 crore sqm of new settlement land. In 2006, a new regional plan came into being. "The villagers noticed that several villages were turned into settlement land in this plan, which led to one of the largest public movements, the Goa Bachao Abhiyan," says Noronha. The plan was denotified after protests.

A complication in Goa's land laws has been the Code of Communidades, a Portuguese-era document, framed in 1933, dealing with community-owned land that could be leased. After independence from colonial rule in 1961, the code ran parallel to the laws governing the rest of India.

"Many present-day decisions ignore these original Comunidade plans and treat such lands as if they have no established use. The confusion stems from the regional plan, which has been in effect for over a decade without a clear transition to a new land-use framework. This has resulted in interim mechanisms like 39A becoming permanent solutions," says Elsa Fernandes, an architect-environmentalist.

She says terms like "occupant" and "tenant" emerged in land records after 1961. "Form I &XIV under the Goa Land Revenue Code reflects occupation and does not establish ownership, which has contributed to long-standing confusion over land titles and transactions in the State," she says.

All for a view

Standing on the crest of a hill in Ella village, Glen Cabral looks out on to the Mandovi river. Behind him is the chapel of Our Lady of the Mount. He points to land notified to be converted from orchard land and says, "People are buying views at the cost of destroying the environment. Do they realise that soon there will be no view left at this pace in Goa due to construction?"

Old Goa – of which Ella is a part – is spread out across seven hills in the northern part of the State. The area has at least 2.6 lakh sqm of land proposed for change of zone, according to the Goa Gazette. In Ella, applications for land conversion amount to about 1.6 lakh sqm. Parts of this land fall in the zone of influence of the Carambolim Lake Wetland and in the buffer zone of the Our Lady of the Mount, a 16th century chapel. The villagers have filed an objection with the TCP regarding a Delhi-based construction and civil engineering company, which had bought property on the hill. The company has applied for land conversation.

"Bison were rarely to be seen; we never saw leopards in Goa. We can easily spot them now. These are signs that their homes are being encroached upon," says Cabral, adding that spotting exotic birds is rare now. A railway tunnel passes beneath the hill.

Carrying the load

In Candolim, 15 km from Ella, in the Badrez taluka, applications are in to convert 29,764 sqm from orchard land, natural cover, and crematorium area to a settlement zone by an individual, as per the Goa Gazette. The Calangute Constituency Forum (CCF), a citizens' association based in Candolim, objected and opposed the change, with CCF member Agnelo Barreto running signature campaigns.

"Part of the area is located in the vicinity of the lighthouse and Fort Aguada, marked as a heritage site, and the plateau is marked as a disaster management area. These violations hurt the local ecological balance. At least 50 trees on the slope are chopped," says Barreto, looking at the map of Candolim from the TCP department.

Arpora village, also in Bardez taluka, and Chimbel in Tisawadi taluka also have similar problems. "There is a reason these forests are protected. This hill and its forests provides environmental services to the people. They are a buffer against pollution, anchoring the soil and protecting the biodiversity. You cannot privatise a public hill and put up a gate and deploy a security guard. If the hills are not stabilised, soil erosion is likely to happen and the area can be prone to floods," says Arpora resident, Susan Koshy, walking along the base of the hill, pointing at a gate installed at what locals say is a public pathway to climb the hill.

Chimbel is 20 km from from Arpora, where villagers sat on strike for 45 days in January opposing government projects of a 17-storey building, Prashashan Stambh, and a nine-storey Unity mall to be built near the lake, a source of water for farmers in the nearby region. "They suspended the project. But were these projects needed? Does the village have carrying capacity?" says Govind Shirodkar, Biodiversity Management Committee Chairperson, a person selected from within the panchayat to represent the village's ecological interests.

Goan residents mostly have a problem with commercial interests in common lands and on eco-sensitive zones. "Section 39A brings in people who have no relationship with the land or its people. They want swimming pools for each bungalow. There is a total breakdown of the village when outsiders come to Goa with the intention of turning it into Delhi or Haryana or wherever they come from," says Alvares.

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St. Andre constituency MLA Viresh Borkar along with residents submits objections to Section 39A of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act, 2024, to the TCP department chief town planner Vertika Dagur on February 20, 2026. DHIRAJ GAUNS

From Page One

Iran steps up attacks on Israel, Gulf energy sites

"We are producing missiles even during war conditions, which is amazing, and there is no particular problem in stockpiling," IRGC spokesman Gen. Ali Mohammad Naeini was quoted as saying in the state-run *IRAN* newspaper.

Gen. Naeini added that Iran had no intention of seeking a quick end to the war. A short time after the statement was released, Iranian state television said Gen. Naeini was killed in an air strike.

The country's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei also released a rare statement, saying Iran's enemies need to have their "security" taken away.

In Iran, meanwhile, many were marking Nowruz, the Persian New Year – even as Israel said it had launched new strikes, and explosions were heard over Tehran. Loud explosions could also be heard in Jerusalem after the Israeli army warned of incoming Iranian missiles. On Friday, Israel broadened its attacks to Syria, saying it hit infrastructure there in response to what it described as attacks on the minority Druze population.

More than 1,300 people have been killed in Iran during the war. Israeli strikes in Lebanon have displaced more than 1 million people, according to the Lebanese government, which says more than 1,000 people have been killed. Israel says it has killed more than 500 Hezbollah militants. In Israel, 15 people have been killed by Iranian missile fire. Four people were also killed in the occupied West Bank by a missile strike. At least 13 U.S. military members have been killed.

Govt. hikes price of premium petrol, industrial diesel as crude costs soar

Prices of premium variant of petrol rise by ₹2-₹3 and industrial diesel by ₹22 per litre; regular petrol cost remains unchanged; Opposition slams government over hike; India's crude oil basket is averaging $117.09 per barrel this month

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

In what could be the first sign of cracks due to the fiscal stress brought on by skyrocketing global oil prices, Indian Oil-Marketing Companies (OMCs) on Friday increased the price of the premium variant of petrol and industrial diesel by approximately ₹2-₹3 and ₹22 per litre, respectively.

The government, however, assured that this is limited only to the premium variants and that the prices of the normal grades of petrol and diesel remain unchanged. In a social media post on Friday evening, State-owned IndianOil confirmed the price of its premium petrol XP-95 which increased by ₹2 for every litre from ₹99.87 to ₹101.89. Hindustan Petroleum also announced a similar increase. Prices will vary across States due to differences in tax structures. "IndianOil has ensured no increase in regular automotive fuel prices in India, even amid rising international costs," the post said. "A limited revision applies only to premium petrol XP-95, with minimal impact on overall consumption."

Long wait: Motorists queue to refuel their tanks at a petrol station in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, on March 12. VENGADESH. R

The refiner said that the premium variant of petrol accounts for about 5% of overall petrol sales. Other than the car fuel, the price of industrial diesel was revised upwards from ₹87.67 to ₹109.59 per litre. The hike in the price of premium petrol and industrial diesel contrasts with the OMCs' actions when oil prices were low.

A previous analysis by *The Hindu* found that OMCs did not lower the price of any form of petrol or diesel over the past two-and-a-half years, even when oil prices fell to an average of $64 a barrel.

Prices surge

As of Friday evening, Brent crude futures were trading at $108.1 for every barrel, continuing an upward trajectory as tensions continue to mount in West Asia. Further, according to data from the Petroleum and Planning Analysis Cell, India's crude oil basket – the average price at which India imports oil – was averaging $117.09 for every barrel in the current month.

Earlier in the day, addressing queries about the increase in petrol prices, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the hike would not impact the common man. "That is [the premium variant] hardly represents 2-4% of the petrol which is sold every day in the country," she said. "It is not that price of petrol has been increased [affecting] the common man."

The increase in the price of premium fuel also brought barbs from the Opposition. "While people are already troubled by the gas shortage, now they will also be made to pay on petrol," the Congress said.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

Indian killed in Riyadh by Iranian missile debris

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

An Indian citizen died in an Iranian missile strike that hit the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy in the kingdom said on Friday. "The Embassy of India expresses its deepest condolences on the tragic demise of an Indian national in Riyadh due to recent events on March 18th. The Embassy is in touch with the family and local authorities. We remain committed to extending all possible assistance in this matter," it said. Diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* that the Indian national is believed to have died after being hit by missile debris.

This is the first Indian fatality reported from Saudi Arabia since the U.S.-Israel war on Iran began on February 28. The Ministry of External Affairs said that so far six Indians have died across the region.

UNI office sealed after court order on land; staff allege manhandling by police

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police, along with paramilitary forces, on Friday allegedly dragged at least 50 journalists out of the United News of India's (UNI) Rafi Marg office following a court order over a land dispute.

The Delhi Police and CRPF personnel inside the UNI office in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma told *The Hindu* that the Delhi Police along with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel visited the UNI office to provide security to the Land and Development Office (L&DO).

The High Court on Friday had upheld the cancellation of the land allotment made to UNI, observing that the agency failed to construct a building on the plot and effectively "squatted on valuable public land". It noted that under the allotment terms dating back to 1979, UNI was required to complete the construction of a office complex within two years of taking possession. However, no construction activity was undertaken.

UNI posted on X, "Despite requests from employees to be given some time, they [police] dragged and pushed some employees, including female staff, away from their seats and out of the newsroom." The DCP said that no journalists were manhandled. "We have made video recordings of the entire process," he said. The office has now been sealed.

(With inputs from Rocky Singh)

CAPF Bill gives priority to IPS officers; govt. says new law will curb litigation

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026, which is likely to be tabled in the Rajya Sabha next week, states that in all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) posts, 50% of the total posts in the rank of Inspector General, at least 67% posts in the rank of Additional Director General and all posts in the rank of Special Director General and Director General shall be filled by Indian Police Service (IPS) officers on deputation. Till now, such postings were done based on executive orders, and the Bill will codify the provisions. The Bill seeks to negate a May 23, 2025 Supreme Court judgment which had asked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to "progressively reduce" IPS deputation in CAPFs up to the rank of I-Gs.

CAPF officials argue that despite leading operations from the front, they face career stagnation

Retired CAPF officials have opposed the Bill stating that the government is discriminating against cadre officers who won the case after 10 years of litigation. Due to absence of senior-level posts, it takes an officer who joins as an Assistant Commandant in the CAPFs, at least 15-18 years for her/his first promotion. The officers have argued that despite leading operations from the front, they face career stagnation.

The Bill, circulated among Rajya Sabha members late on Friday, said the CAPFs perform functions of national security in close coordination with State authorities and, in the interest of maintaining Centre-State relationship, IPS officers are necessary for effective functioning of these forces. The statement of objects and reasons by Home Minister Amit Shah said that, in recent years, due to the absence of an umbrella law, regulatory provisions have evolved in a fragmented manner resulting in several litigations on service-related matters. It added that the Bill was being brought to "avoid unnecessary litigations."

CJI shifts petitions against CEC selection law to another Bench

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On Friday, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant expressed his reluctance to continue hearing a series of petitions challenging a law that replaced the CJI with a Union Minister in the selection panel for the appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

Chief Justice Kant said that as the petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service, and Term of Office) Act of 2023 relate to the office of the CJI, he would not like a Supreme Court Bench headed by him to hear the case as that would expose his office to criticism of conflict of interest. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, the Association for Democratic Reforms, suggested the case be shifted to a Bench which does not have a prospective CJI either as the lead or associate judge.

Acknowledging Mr. Bhushan's recommendation, the Chief Justice said, "I should mark this matter to a Bench where the judge may not be in line to become the CJI. Then nobody can say anything." The Bench listed the case on April 7 before an appropriate Bench.

The main contention

The petitioners argued that the 2023 law was introduced to dilute a Constitution Bench ruling delivered in March 2023 in *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India*, which had included the CJI as a member of the high-powered selection committee involved in the appointments of the CEC and the ECs.

The bone of contention is the validity of Section 7(1) of the statute. The provision mandated that the President would appoint the CECs and ECs on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister. The statute, in short, gave the government an upper hand in appointments to the Election Commission of India.

Nitish Kumar can remain CM for next six months: Minister

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Rural Development Minister Sharwan Kumar on Friday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar can remain in the post for the next six months, despite being elected to the Rajya Sabha in the recent elections. His comments came amid the debate over Mr. Nitish Kumar's successor to the Chief Minister post.

He also said Mr. Nitish Kumar will resign within 14 days as member of the Bihar Legislative Council. "One has to resign within 14 days as member of either House of the State legislature [after being elected as an MP]. He can resign within the stipulated time frame but can remain the Chief Minister for the next six months as per provisions of the Constitution."

The Prohibition of Simultaneous Membership Rules, 1950, framed under Article 101 of the Constitution, prohibits simultaneous membership in both Parliament and State legislature. Individuals have to resign from their legislature seat within 14 days of being elected to the Parliament, failing which their seat in the Parliament falls vacant.

However, Article 164(4) of the Constitution allows a person to be appointed as Chief Minister or Minister for up to six months without being a member of a State legislature.

Our appeals are being ignored, say leaders from Nicobar islands

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nicobarese leaders brought their complaint about the Great Nicobar Island project's encroachment on their ancestral tribal lands to the national capital, meeting the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday. The delegation, led by Barnabas Manju, chief of the Tribal Council of Great and Little Nicobar, and Titus Peter, 1st Captain of Pulobhabi village, told Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders that their appeals to the government regarding the ₹92,000 crore mega-infrastructure project on Great Nicobar Island have been ignored. Mr. Gandhi assured them that he would raise their concerns in Parliament.

Raising concerns: Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi meets the delegation from Great Nicobar Island in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

'Won't give up lands'

Earlier this year, the Council accused the district administration of pressuring them to surrender their lands and reiterated that they do not consent to any project coming up on tribal lands. "Our argument is simple. It is not that we don't want development. If you're doing anything, limit it to the revenue lands [owned by the government] and don't encroach into tribal lands," Mr. Peter said, adding, "Even if the government offers us all the money it has, we don't want to give up our lands."

Hanging by a thread: West Asia war unravels Kashmir-Iran carpet connection

Intricate work: Kashmiri artisans weaving a carpet in a factory in Srinagar. IMRAN NISSAR

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Every time a missile strikes Iran, tremors are felt thousands of miles away in Srinagar's Badamwari carpet cluster.

For many artisans, the war has struck a personal chord – Kashmir's famed carpets are named after cities across Iran.

"I am a master of Kashan carpets, named after an Iranian city. My family has been weaving Iranian designs for ages now. Kashmiri carpets are incomplete without them," said 67-year-old Haider Magray from Srinagar's Hawal.

Kashmir has been replicating Iranian designs associated with cities like Kermanshah, Kashan, Tabriz, Khorasan, Isfahan, Hamadan, Ardabil, Mashhad, Qum and Shiraz. Many of these major cities holding major carpet centres have been affected by the Iran-U.S.-Israel hostilities. "It's painful to see the names of Iranian cities we relate to through our craft being destroyed. We pray the war ends and their craft bazaars are again teeming with customers," said Mr. Magray.

Each city of Iran has a different design signature – some are dominated by geometrical shapes and historical signage, while others are marked by floral designs. Kashmir's carpet industry has been influenced by Iranian designs. The shared skills of dense hand-knotting have made Kashmiri and Persian carpets world famous.

"An Ardabil design carpet woven by Kashmiri artisans and displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the U.K. is a testimony to the relationship with Iranian carpets. We have been exporting Ardabil, Kashan and Tabrizi designs since our great-grandfathers set up the 'House of Ali Shah' in 1869. We have the design presets with us," said Iqbal Shah of the Artisane Art and Cultural Centre. "Many Iranian designs were improvised over time and renamed after local artisans," he added.

Trading hotspot

During the 16th century Mughal period and the 19th century Dogra period, traders from Iran considered Kashmir as one of their favourite stops to sell goods; to mainly the elites. "During the Mughal period, Iranian traders facilitated the transfer of skills. Iranian traders may have even taken artisans to Iran for skill development," said Saleem Beg of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage.

The ongoing war has also cast its shadow on future collaborations between Kashmir and Iranian artisans. Last year, Srinagar was named the World Craft City by the NGO World Crafts Council. "There are 14 Iranian cities also listed as craft cities by the Council. We were expecting that the inclusion of Srinagar would lead to knowledge exchange. The war has also cast a shadow on that too," said Mr. Beg.

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Cong. alliance prompts BJP to eye Sibsagar seat

The last-minute alliance between the Congress and the Raijor Dal has made the BJP contemplate fielding a candidate in eastern Assam's Sibsagar Assembly constituency.

Raijor Dal president Akhil Gogoi is seeking re-election from Sibsagar, where his position got strengthened after his party joined the Congress-led Opposition bloc.

Soon after filing his nomination papers for the Jalukbari constituency on Friday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the BJP would discuss with ally Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) the possibility of fielding its candidate in Sibsagar, one of the 26 seats the AGP is contesting. He felt that a BJP candidate would be better placed to defeat Mr. Gogoi in Sibsagar than an AGP candidate.

Akhil Gogoi, president of Raijor Dal, is seeking re-election from Sibsagar

Parties must get advertisements pre-certified

Ahead of the Assembly polls in four States and one Union Territory, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday directed political parties to get their advertisements pre-certified by the media certification and monitoring committees (MCMC).

Further it has directed individual candidates to share details of their authentic social media accounts at the time of filing nominations in their affidavits.

The MCMCs shall also keep a strict vigil on suspected cases of paid news in the media and take suitable action, the poll body said in a statement.

The EC has also asked political parties to submit a statement of expenditure incurred on campaigning through Internet to it within 75 days of the completion of the Assembly election.

"The message from Keralam is clear – the people are ready for change, they seek a government that listens, understands, and delivers with honesty

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

Suvendu says Mamata violated model code

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari on Friday alleged Mamata Banerjee had violated the poll code by using the Chief Minister's letterhead for political correspondence. He said once the Model Code of Conduct is in effect, a clear distinction must be made between administrative duties and party politics. PTI

"No amount of effort by the EC to gerrymander will change the results. Come counting day Mamata *Didi* will win a thumping majority

OMAR ABDULLAH
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister

Fishermen pulling a mechanised boat to the shore at Puthiyappa in Kozhikode district. K. RAGESH

Kerala's fishing sector hopes to be heard this election season

Mithosh Joseph
KOZHIKODE

As Kerala gears up for the Assembly election, the State's fishing community has renewed its call to political parties to address its livelihood concerns. Of the State's 140 Assembly constituencies, around 40 are coastal, accounting for nearly 30%, making them electorally significant in a landscape often defined by narrow margins.

With the fisheries sector employing nearly 10 lakh workers, all political fronts are keenly watching the community's priorities. Several factors, including the drop in marine resources, adverse impact of climate change, and spike in operational expenses have upset the sector.

Though the State has made a series of allocations to address the crucial challenges, their timely realisation remains a challenge. According to Fisheries Department officials, ₹239 crore was earmarked for fisheries in the 2026-27 State Budget. This was in addition to separate allocations for higher education scholarships, infrastructure development, and relief projects.

However, organisations working for the fisherfolk point to persistent gaps. For many, the yet-to-be-revised assistance to survive during lean seasons remains a grievance. What they seek is the launch of an enhanced direct income support scheme. Better student scholarships for higher education is another demand.

Poor enforcement of rules, a worry

Some organisations also pinpoint poor enforcement of rules in the fisheries sector. Abdul Razak, the State general secretary of the Kerala Matsyathozhilali Federation, said the State was yet to come up with strong measures against the use of banned fishing nets. The government has accorded priority to collection of penalties instead of checking violations, he said.

Irfab Habeeb, a fisherman from Kozhikode and the secretary of the Matsya Thozhilali Congress, sought immediate action to impound boats that use banned nets. He said boats impounded in such cases should not be released at any cost. He also highlighted the poor infrastructure at many harbours.

Jackson Pollayil, the State president of the Kerala Swathanthra Matsyathozhilali Federation, demanded a price-fixing mechanism with government support to ensure fair returns. He also sought the creation of a coastal development authority, and emphasised the need to safeguard fisherfolk's right over marine resources.

Striking a different note, N.P. Radhakrishnan of the Bharatiya Matsya Pravarthaka Sanghom and former member of the National Fisheries Board said the State should make optimum use of available Central assistance. He pointed out that the reluctance to provide the State's share amid financial constraints had been hindering several development initiatives.

A thorough revision of existing rehabilitation projects such as *Punargeham* (safe alternative housing scheme for those living very close to the sea) is crucial to meet their livelihood needs, according to coastal families in Kozhikode. They pointed out that an integrated approach combining housing with better access to work premises should be adopted.

Other complaints are lack of affordable boat repair yards and poor options for value-added product manufacturing units.

West Bengal's two-cornered battle juxtaposes continuity and change

While the Trinamool Congress, which is fighting the anti-incumbency factor after being in power for 15 years, is banking on cash incentive schemes and Bengali identity and culture, the BJP wants to unseat Mamata Banerjee on grounds of alleged demographic change and corruption in the State

IN FOCUS

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

As West Bengal votes in the Assembly election in two phases on April 23 and April 29, the State's electorate will have to choose between the continuity of the prevailing *status quo* or a change in the political order.

The Trinamool Congress, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is seeking to return to power for the fourth consecutive term. Despite the anti-incumbency factor after being in power for 15 years, the ruling party looks confident about its organisation whose influence has percolated to every aspect of public life. The support of the vast network of beneficiaries it has created with its cash incentive schemes is also an added advantage.

Looking beyond SIR

An arduous four-month-long special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has preceded the polls. Over the past few months, Ms. Banerjee has put all her political might behind opposing the SIR and highlighting the difficulties which the revision of electoral rolls brought about.

The number of electors in the State, as per the final list, stands at 7.04 crore, down by 8% from 7.66 crore voters before the SIR.

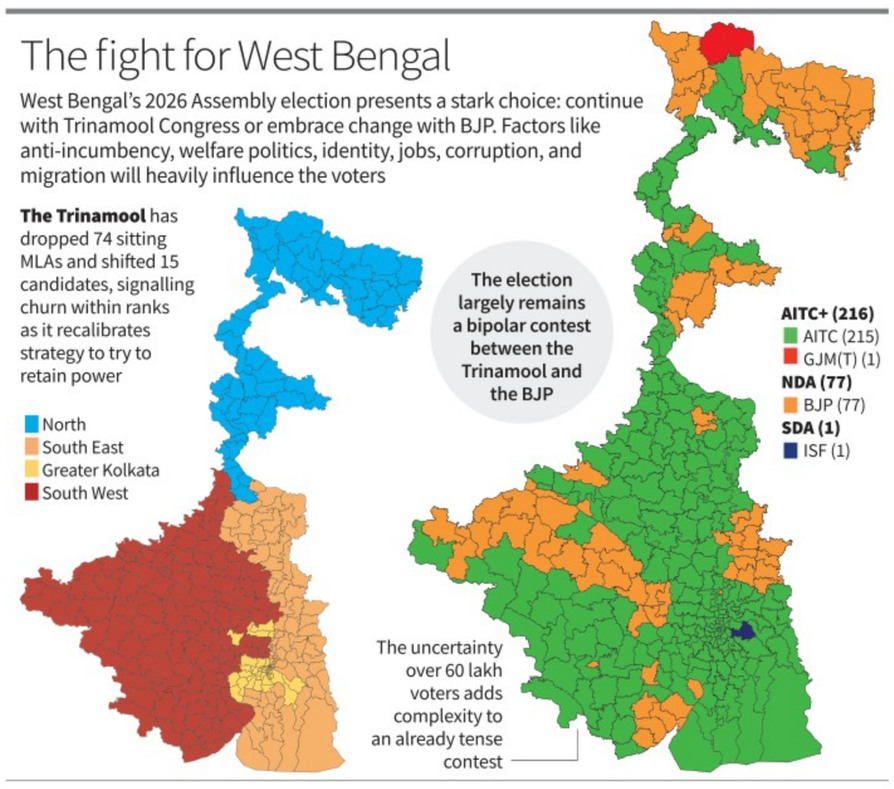
The elections are being held at a time when the fate of about 60 lakh electors hangs in balance with their voting rights being subjected to judicial adjudication. With almost a month left for the polls, there seems to be no clarity on whether these electors will be able to vote. Even if the supplementary list of electors is out, it looks difficult that judicial officials will settle all the 60 lakh cases.

In the run-up to the polls, the Trinamool has avoided the issues of jobs, migration, and flight of industries. Similar to the 2021 election, the Trinamool is banking on Bengali sub-nationalism. The Trinamool's campaign is to paint the BJP as a party of outsiders, where every error in attributing a prefix or a suffix to the State's cultural or religious icons by BJP leaders hailing from outside the State is not only highlighted but ridiculed. The Trinamool has dismissed the growing political influence of the BJP as an attack on Bengali identity and culture.

Infiltration narrative

For the BJP, it is not enough to challenge the Trinamool over lack of jobs and industries, migration, and corruption surfacing through scams. The issue of illegal infiltration and claims of change of demography in parts of the State has provided the BJP a handle to polarise the electorate on religious lines.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his public rallies has referred to demographic change, and during a rally at the Brigade Parade grounds in Kolkata on March 14, he said the Assembly election was not only aimed to change the government but also to save the "soul of West Bengal".


The fight for West Bengal
West Bengal's 2026 Assembly election presents a stark choice: continue with Trinamool Congress or embrace change with BJP. Factors like anti-incumbency, welfare politics, identity, jobs, corruption, and migration will heavily influence the voters
The Trinamool has dropped 74 sitting MLAs and shifted 15 candidates, signalling churn within ranks as it recalibrates strategy to try to retain power
North
South East
Greater Kolkata
South West
The election largely remains a bipolar contest between the Trinamool and the BJP
AITC+ (216)
AITC (215)
GJM(T) (1)
NDA (77)
BJP (77)
SDA (1)
ISF (1)
The uncertainty over 60 lakh voters adds complexity to an already tense contest

The BJP, which emerged as the principal Opposition party after 2016, also faces the disadvantage of not being able to challenge the Trinamool in constituencies where Muslim electorate constitute more than 50% of the population. Of the 294 Assembly seats, there are about 80 seats where the BJP faces this disadvantage.

The Trinamool has been cautious in the selection of candidates and has announced the list of 291 candidates. The BJP and the CPI(M)-led Left Front have named most of their candidates and have considered "winnability" as the most important factor.

Bhabanipur, an urban constituency in the heart of Kolkata, has thrown up the most interesting electoral contest between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari.

The BJP has tried to rope in the mother of the doctor who was raped and killed at R.G. Kar Hospital in August 2024, even though her candidature has not been announced.

The past few elections in West Bengal have largely been a bipolar contest, with the vote share of the ruling Trinamool Congress rising to 48% and the BJP registering about 38% in the 2021 Assembly polls.

Congress goes solo

The Congress party decided to end a decade-long electoral understanding with the Left Front and will contest the polls alone.

In certain areas, particularly in minority-dominated Murshidabad and Malda where a section of the electorate seems to be disenchanted with the Trinamool, the Left and the Congress had a better chance of tasting victory if the two political forces had joined hands. With a careful selection of candidates, the Left Front and the Congress, whose former State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is keen to contest, can win some seats in central Bengal.

New political entrants such as the Indian Secular Front, which made its debut in 2021, and Humayun Kabir's Aam Janata Unnayan Party - largely focusing on constructing a mosque styled on Babri Masjid - have influence only in a few seats.

They are trying to bank on discontent among Trinamool leaders who have been denied ticket. The Trinamool has not given ticket to 74 MLAs.

Two phases

For the 2026 polls, the Election Commission also bucked the trend of holding elections in half-a-dozen or more phases and decided to hold this election in only two phases, despite the threat of political violence looming large. Transfers of nearly 50 high-ranking government officials have put the administration on the edge.

Though there are developmental and regional imbalances such as the north Bengal versus south Bengal divide and certain communities feeling more deprived than the others, the question remains whether all these will add up to attain the critical mass required for a political change.

A clearer picture will emerge in the next 40 days of the election campaign before the final die is cast.

Doorstep medical care, pension support part of Mamata's promises

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has promised to bring medical care to the doorsteps of voters in West Bengal, as part of 10 commitments highlighted in its poll manifesto released by party chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday, just a month before the Assembly election.

This promise of *duare chikitsa* (doorstep medical care) is a follow-up to previous schemes by the Trinamool Congress government to provide *duare sarkar* and *duare ration* (doorstep governance and foodgrains), in a bid to decentralise government benefits.

Ms. Banerjee also vowed to create seven new districts to ease administration in the State.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and MP Abhishek Banerjee release the party manifesto in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

Women, youth, elders

The 10 commitments include the much publicised *Lakshmir Bhandar* scheme, whose entitlements to 2.4 crore poor women were hiked by ₹500 per month in last month's State budget, and the newer *Banglar Yuva Sathi* scheme for unemployed youth aged between 21 and 40 years, which has already received 80 lakh applicants.

"We provide ₹1,500 per month to women under *Lakshmir Bhandar*. This comes to ₹18,000 a year. Similarly ₹1,500 per month under *Yuva Sathi* will continue with other scholarships," Ms. Banerjee said, releasing the manifesto at her residence in Kalighat.

Uninterrupted old age pension support to all existing beneficiaries is also a new initiative in the manifesto.

Houses for all

Ms. Banerjee promised a *pucca* home to every family, with a slogan of "*nischit abasan* (assured housing)" and clean piped drinking water under the promise of "*ghore ghore nal* (a tap for every household)".

She also promised that if her party returns to power in the State , it will propose a ₹30,000 crore agriculture budget to support landless farmers and boost the agrarian economy.

Other promises by the Trinamool included upgrading industrial infrastructure, and holistic infrastructure upgradation of all government schools. She also claimed that the State has emerged as a cement and leather hub, and added 1.5 crore workers in the MSME sector.

The Chief Minister said that the manifesto has been printed in six different languages, using the slogan "*Sobar janye dorkar Trinamool sarkar* (Trinamool government for everyone)". She also ridiculed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan "*Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*" on development for all, claiming that in reality, it has turned out to be "*Sabka Vinash* (disaster for all)".

BJP State president Samik Bhattacharya termed the promises in the Trinamool manifesto as "colourful dreams".

Women leaders in Kerala protest over denial of poll ticket

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress leader Shama Mohamed has lashed out at the party leadership for overlooking women in the party's candidate selection for the coming Assembly election in Kerala.

In a post on Facebook on Friday, a day after the Congress put out its list of candidates, she said that only nine out of the 92 candidates of the party are women. "I have been rejected, but not defeated. I request my leader Rahul Gandhi, whom I admire, respect, and adore, to help the Congress women of Kerala. In the Lok Sabha elections of 2024, only one woman was given a ticket... If a woman happens to be talented, the situation is dire," she wrote.

Although Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary and two-time councillor Deepthy Mary Varghese had appeared confident that she would be fielded from the Kochi constituency, Ernakulam DCC president Mohammad Shiyas made it into the final list. However, Ms. Varghese shared a post in support of Mr. Shiyas on Friday.

Shama Mohamed

Protests in BJP

Voices of protest from women leaders are being witnessed in the BJP too. On Friday, party spokesperson T.P. Sindhumol sent a complaint to the national leadership that she was denied candidature in the Ettumanur seat, which was handed over to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ally Twenty20.

INBRIEF

HC declines to quash FIR against 'Mohammad' Deepak

The Uttarakhand High Court on Friday refused to quash an FIR lodged against Kotdwar-based gym owner Deepak Kumar who came into national focus after he confronted a group of right-wing activists accused of harassing a 71-year-old Muslim shop owner and pressuring him to rename his store in the town on January 26. . The court orally rebuked Mr. Kumar for being "too active" on social media, and directed him to refrain from making posts that could affect the ongoing investigation.

CBI again questions Anil Ambani in bank 'fraud' case

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday again questioned businessman Anil Ambani in connection with an alleged ₹2,929-crore bank fraud case, after recording his statement on Thursday. The agency registered the first information report in August 2025, against against Reliance Communication Ltd., its then director Mr. Ambani, and others, for allegedly causing a wrongful loss to the State Bank of India.

Renewable Energy Ministry demands sweeping powers

Ministry says it should be recognised as 'Central Government' in matters pertaining to renewables under Electricity Act; Power Ministry currently exercises primary authority over Act's provisions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Renewable Energy Ministry's stated target is 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The New and Renewable Energy Ministry has made a case before a parliamentary committee for a significant expansion of its administrative authority over India's renewable energy sector, arguing that it should be recognised as the "Central Government" in all matters pertaining to renewables under the Electricity Act, 2003.

The demand, part of a detailed reply furnished to the committee in February but made public this month, in response to "stakeholder requests" for a standalone Renewable Energy Act, effectively seeks to redraw the institutional boundaries between the Renewable Energy Ministry and the Power Ministry, which currently exercises primary authority over the Electricity Act's provisions, including those governing grid-connected renewable energy.

As of January 31, 2026 – the Renewable Energy Ministry cited in a submission – India has installed 271.96 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, a little over half the country's total installed generation capacity of 520.50 GW. Of this, 263.18 GW is from renewable energy. However, the actual electricity generated from non-fossil sources is about 25%.

While the Ministry conceded that a separate Act was unnecessary as electricity from renewable sources is already integrated into the grid and governed under the existing framework, it laid out a sweeping list of empowerments it believes are needed to bring "institutional clarity and effective administration" to the sector.

The Ministry wants the power to design electricity markets for renewable energy, prepare and notify bidding guidelines for renewable energy projects, frame tariff determination principles for the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), and guide the CERC on matters related to renewables.

It has also sought oversight of the planning and monitoring of Renewable Purchase Obligations, the mechanism that compels distribution companies and large consumers to procure a minimum share of their electricity from clean sources. Several States are laggards in these aspects.

The Renewable Energy Ministry has further asked that the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) coordinate with it while framing regulations related to renewable energy, and that the National Committee on Transmission work under the Ministry's guidance – a significant institutional claim, given that transmission planning has traditionally been the turf of the Power Ministry and the CEA.

Fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, says SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petitioner had sought court's intervention against hate speech targeting the Brahmin community

The Supreme Court of India on Friday said the fight against hate speech must be on behalf of all, and not just limited to one's own community.

"Why should a particular community come up and say 'protect my community against hate speech'? Rather, we should say 'no one should indulge in hate speech'," Justice B.V. Nagarathna, heading a Bench, observed orally.

Justice Nagarathna's remark came while hearing a petition seeking the court's intervention against hate speech targeting the Brahmin community.

The court found that the petitioner-in-person, Mahalingam Balaji, had even coined a term, 'Brahmophobia', which he said should be treated as caste-based discrimination and duly punished.

Mr. Balaji submitted that the petition was a result of years of research on the "selective and inconsistent application" of the hate speech jurisprudence. He said hate speech has affected the community.

"We do not want hate speech against any community. That would depend on the level of education, intellectual development, tolerance and patience in the society. Once everyone follows fraternity, then automatically there would be no hate speech," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Nagarathna advised the petitioner to "develop the capacity to not be influenced by it". "Many things, if ignored, will fade away. If you react, it will only trigger another reaction," Justice Nagarathna said. The court allowed the withdrawal of the plea.

Shah reviews security situation in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

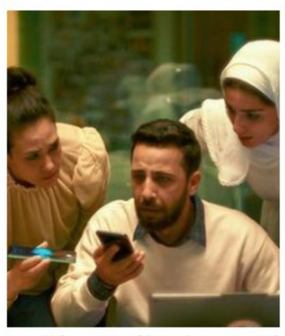
Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the security situation in Manipur on Friday where he directed Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh to crack down on drug cartels and prioritise the resettlement of thousands of people displaced after ethnic violence erupted in the State on May 3, 2023, a government source said.

The meeting, the first since President's Rule was revoked in the State, was convened in a hybrid mode with the Chief Minister joining virtually from Imphal. He was accompanied by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and senior officers, including Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh.

The Manipur government was asked to submit a detailed plan to the Union Home Ministry to combat drug smuggling. It was also asked to expedite the recovery of looted police weapons. More than 6,000 police weapons were looted in 2023.

Oscar-nominated film on Gaza orally rejected by CBFC, says distributor

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI



A still from the film *The Voice of Hind Rajab*.

The Voice of Hind Rajab, an Oscar-nominated film about a five-year-old Palestinian girl who was killed by Israeli forces in early 2024 in the Gaza war, has been orally rejected by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), the film's India distributor Manoj Nandwana said.

The theatrical ban on the film was first reported on Thursday by Hollywood trade publication *Variety*.

Mr. Nandwana told *The Hindu* that he "had a feeling" that the film would be refused certification, as multiple film festivals – which require the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's clearance for movies that don't have a CBFC certificate – were not granted approval for this film over the last year.

He added that he was not going to proceed with a legal challenge to the film, and said that he did not get the rejection from the CBFC in writing. "In the past, we submitted a film called *Land Jihad* ... but then the Censor Board gave it in writing that this could cause communal issues, and rejected it in writing," he said.

The Ministry and the CBFC did not respond to a query by *The Hindu*. A senior official told *The Hindu* on Friday that the film had now been referred to a Revising Committee in the CBFC, and that it would be reviewed by them now. Over the past two years, the CBFC has rejected and censored many films that have progressive political messaging.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said that the film's ban was "disgraceful," adding that "screening a film is a reflection of our society's freedom of expression and has nothing to do with government to government relations".

Banning films for potentially harming foreign relations was "unworthy of a mature democracy", Mr. Tharoor said.

Mr. Nandwana purchased the rights for the Tunisian-produced film long before it was an Oscars contender, buying it for the equivalent of ₹1 crore in Venice. But the film was denied screening at multiple festivals, including the Bengaluru International Film Festival and the International Film Festival of India in Goa. The only festival it has played at in India is the Kolkata International Film Festival, Mr. Nandwana said, speculating that this was because the organisers did not bother with clearances from the Union government.

HC raps govt. over not filling minorities panel posts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday expressed displeasure with the Centre for failing to provide a "timeline" for completing the process of filling the vacant posts of chairperson and members of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

Noting that it had earlier sought an affidavit specifically on the timeline for filling the vacancies, a Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia asked the Deputy Secretary in the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs to explain the lapse within two weeks.

The court observed that the affidavit "only stated" that the Ministry had initiated the necessary action for appointments to the vacant posts, and that biodata and nominations were under examination.

The court was dealing with a plea by petitioner Mujahid Nafees over the vacancies in the NCM. The matter would be heard next on July 3.

Former SC judge, senior advocate join panel to guide NCERT curriculum

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The development follows a March 11 order of the SC.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta informed the Supreme Court on Friday that former top court judge Justice Indu Malhotra and senior advocate K.K. Venugopal had agreed to be part of an expert committee to finalise the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curricula on legal studies for Class 8 and higher grades.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, the top law officer for the Union Government orally submitted that the expert committee would collaborate or associate with retired Supreme Court Judge Aniruddha Bose, in his capacity as the Director of the National Judicial Academy, to finalise the curricula for these classes.

Chief Justice Kant orally expressed his satisfaction, stating that there was none better than these jurists to guide the framing of the curriculum. The development followed a March 11 order of the Supreme Court, which had taken *suo motu* cognisance of a newspaper article that referred to a portion on "Corruption in the Judiciary" in a Class 8 social science textbook.

The court had observed that the textbook chapter "The Role of the Judiciary in our Society", particularly the sub-topic expounding "Corruption in the Judiciary", was "prima-facie intended towards maligning the Indian judiciary". It had initiated contempt proceedings against those behind the lesson. On February 26, the Supreme Court had ordered the "blanket and complete" ban on the social science textbook despite the Centre withdrawing over 82,000 copies from circulation. The court had seen it as a calculated move to create bias against the judiciary in the "impressionable minds" of children.

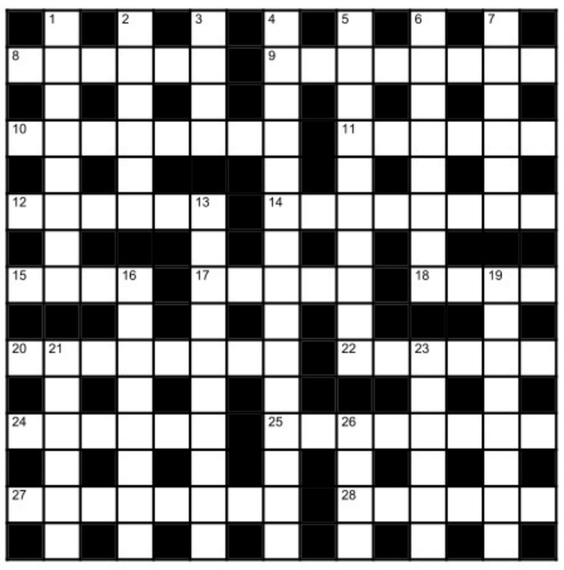
On March 11, the court had taken strong exception to an NCERT statement that it had "duly rewritten" the chapter. The court had directed that the chapter, if revised, would not be published unless it was approved by a committee of domain experts. It had ordered the government to constitute the expert committee, which would include a former senior judge, an eminent academic, and a renowned practitioner in law. It said the committee may associate with the National Judicial Academy to look into the curriculum on legal studies for not only Class 8 but other classes too.

TH CROSSWORD + 14747

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Inflame and captivate royal for good! (6)
9 Wheels for hire arranged near cart (4-1-3)
10 Bond's report (8)
11 Rub me! I do soak in blood! (6)
12 Love to bat in ground net (6)
14 Large and small soldiers, compatriots (8)
15 Slice of French tea, rolls and cheese (4)
17 Gag poor thing with leaves (5)
18 Work on small ebbing form of precipitate (4)
20 Something that starts meal over a beer at times (8)
22 Interlocks trenches around a city (6)
24 Most unhinged fellow from Edinburgh, wasting time, painting (6)
25 Charity programme, say mostly on the broadcast (8)
27 Judge in the style of writer, with love for spice (8)
28 Lady disregarding a new club creature (6)

Down

1 Permit fee for a drain (8)
2 Father cultivated a yard for a tropical fruit (6)
3 Half of South European spy agency (4)
4 Sir, let Tarantino start to render in different script (15)
5 English knight features in a junior posting in American Navy (10)
6 Coaches chasing one and a million metrical feet (8)
7 World is new and bit anarchic? Sadly true! (6)
13 King or a throne representing a state (5,5)
16 Main case about loss of hard disk? (8)
19 Ordinary friend having one in hundred non-obligatory choice (8)
21 Channels of supply from heart of America! Gold with unlimited stash! (6)
23 Allergy syndrome that hampers man's aspirations basically (6)
26 Dirty work, replacing a clue! (4)

SUDOKU

8	6	4	7					
9				4	2		8	
			3			4		
5			4		8		2	
	1						5	
	8		2		1			3
		1			5			
	2		1	6				5
					3	7	1	8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6826 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

S	A	B	O	T	A	C		
SHOWJUMPER					FLOP			
O	N	R	E	A	F	P		
SPLITENDPALLID								
B	N	A			D	A	O	
LONGSUIT				OUTGUN				
Y		E		O		O	U	S
POTATOCRISP								
T	U	I		T		R		S
BANTER				HEREDITY				
P	L	S			I	E	I	
TIDYUP			EUGENICS					
O	I	E		L	O	O	K	
ICON		EVALUATION						
A	G	D	N	R	E	N		

Solution to Thursday's Sudoku

4	5	8	1	7	3	2	9	6
3	1	9	6	2	4	7	8	5
7	2	6	8	9	5	1	3	4
2	6	3	7	1	9	4	5	8
5	9	1	2	4	8	3	6	7
8	7	4	3	5	6	9	1	2
1	3	5	4	6	2	8	7	9
6	4	7	9	8	1	5	2	3
9	8	2	5	3	7	6	4	1

FAITH

Days of Heaven

The holy month of Ramzan unfolds in three luminous phases. Salman al-Farisi, one of the *sahabah* (companion) of Prophet Muhammed narrates: "Its beginning, the first 10 days, pours *rahmah* (mercy) upon the believers; its middle opens the gates of *maghfirah* (forgiveness); and its final grants '*itq min al-nar*' (freedom from Hellfire)." As the days progress, into the heart of the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, the seeking servant feels time itself thinning. Ramzan is often described as a guest whose presence revives the soul, and whose departure leaves the mindful in tears. The believers are showered with divine mercy 'like soft rain descending on parched earth' in the opening act. Then arrives the second stretch, supplicated by pleas for pardon. It is during this middle period that the first battle of Islam was waged. Three hundred fought against a thousand in the Battle of Badr on the seventeenth of Ramzan. The echoes of this clash where the outnumbered faithful turned the tide against formidable foes still stir the air. Then come the last 10 nights of emancipation. Within them lies *Laylat al-Qadr*, a night that the Koran declares "better than a thousand months of worship". The exact date is not revealed but the Prophet instructs: "Seek it in the last 10 nights, and seek it on every odd-numbered night," urging devouts to strive for many *duas*. As the dawn of Id approaches, the spiritual journey demands its final key: *Fitrah*. This almsgiving is not an afterthought; the quiet offering seals the fast. Before the Id prayer, hands extend charity, ensuring every abstained meal finds full acceptance before the celebration.

– *Mohammed Hidhayathullah*

INBRIEF

US EXIM announces $10 bn support to Essar Group firm

The United States has announced a support of up to $10 billion to Mesabi Metallics, an Essar Group firm, for a major minerals and manufacturing project in Minnesota. The US Export-Import Bank (EXIM) made the announcement during the Indo-Pacific Energy Security Ministerial and Business Forum in Tokyo last week. EXIM said its loans are unlocking nearly $30 billion in strategic deals designed to strengthen America's supply chain security alongside Indo-Pacific allies. PTI

Natco generic Semaglutide all set for a roll out today

Natco Pharma will unveil Semaglutide injection (multi-dose vials) in the local market on Saturday. It would be available tomorrow, day 1 of patent expiry, the generic drugmaker said on Friday. Semaglutide, the active ingredient in drug major Novo Nordisk's Ozempic and Wegovy, is indicated for treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes. Last month, Natco had secured Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation's nod to make and market generic Semaglutide in India.

Veranda moves ahead with Commerce vertical demerger

Veranda Learning Solutions (VLS) has moved a step closer to its proposed commerce vertical demerger and separately list J.K. Shah Commerce Education Limited. (JSCEL) following directions from the Chennai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under a Composite Scheme of Arrangement involving VLS, Veranda XL Learning Private Limited (VXLS) and JSCEL.

Rupee slips 82 paisa to ₹93.71 as oil crosses $108/barrel

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 82 paise and hit an all-new low of 93.71 on surging geopolitical tensions, oil prices and persistent foreign fund outflows.

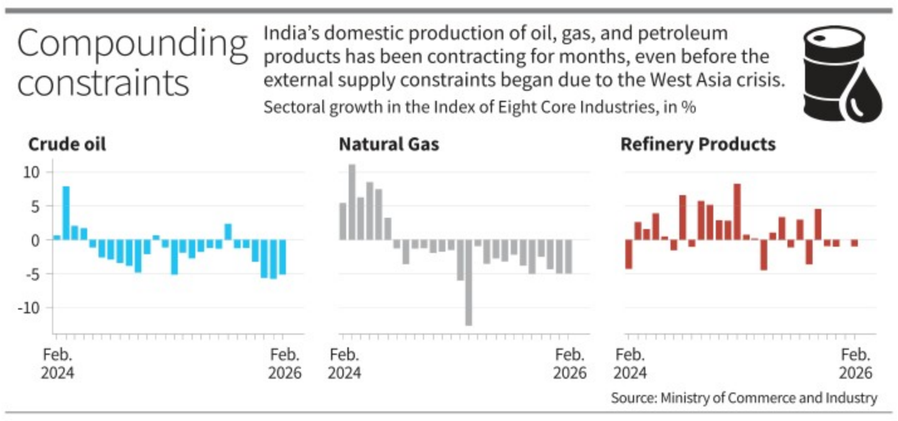
Besides the war keeping essential commodities' prices sticky on crude futures prices crossing $108/barrrel, aggressive outflow of foreign funds from Indian stock markets have also intensified currency pressures. On Monday, foreign investors sold ₹10,965.7 crore in equities alone. In the first 20 days of March, FIIs withdrew ₹88,180 crore. This is the worst number since September 2024 when for the whole month ₹94,000 crore equities were sold by the FIIs. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) exit from Indian market leads to an outflow of dollars, leading to increased supply of rupee leading to its plunging value.

"With Indian Government having budgeted oil at $75 per barrel, every $10 increase in prices will increase the CAD (current account deficit) by $1 billion and we are in for a steeper depreciation" said Anil Bhansali, head of treasury and ED, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. CAD is the difference between import and export values.

Many analysts forecast the rupee to stay between ₹93 and ₹94.25 to the dollar and a breach above that level would mean the currency pair hits ₹95 a dollar.

Core sectors' pace of growth halves to 2.3% in February

Government data show domestic production of oil, gas, and petroleum products had been shrinking in the run up to current supply constraints


Compounding constraints
India's domestic production of oil, gas, and petroleum products has been contracting for months, even before the external supply constraints began due to the West Asia crisis.
Sectoral growth in the Index of Eight Core Industries, in %
Crude oil
Natural Gas
Refinery Products
10
5
0
-5
-10
Feb. 2024
Feb. 2026
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's core industrial growth slowed sharply even before the West Asia crisis began with government data showing growth in the eight core sectors slowing to a three-month low of 2.3% in February.

This slowdown, as shown by the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, comes at a time when economists expect a further slowdown in March on supply and export curbs due to West Asia war. The data also shows local output of oil, gas and petroleum products shrinking for months, now compounded by the external supply constraints.

"Even before the start of the West Asia crisis, the growth of the core sector output in India slowed to a three-month low of 2.3% in February 2026," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA. "The sequential halving in year-on-year growth from 4.7% in January was relatively broad-based with only two sectors viz. cement and steel eking out a year-on-year rise that was above 3.5%."

Cement at its best

Cement rose 9.3% in February, the best performance out of the eight sectors. However, this was a four-month low, with the sector breaking a three-month streak of double-digit growth. Steel, too, saw relatively robust growth, but slower than previous months at a three-month low of 7.2% in February.

Notably, the data shows crude oil, LPG and LNG curbs on West Asia crisis coming at a particularly inopportune time with local output contracting for multiple months – a trend that continued into February.

Crude oil shrank for the sixth consecutive month at 5.2% in February, while natural gas contracted for the 20th month at 5%.

Refinery products shrank 1% in February. The sector contracted in six out of the 11 months of FY26 .

Growth in fertilizers slowed to a five-month low of 3.4% in February albeit on a high base of 10.2% in February last year. Coal slowed to a three-month low of 2.3% while electricity sector slowed to a three-month low of 0.5%. "Longer the crisis persists, resulting in higher fuel prices and tighter availability, larger the downside will be for India's GDP growth in FY27," Ms. Nayar said.

HDFC Bank stock under pressure, slumps 2.5%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Days after chairman Atanu Chakraborty resigned citing ethical concerns, HDFC Bank remained under pressure, it's stock fallling about 2.5% as analysts expressed concerns.

The stock closed at ₹780.45, down 2.41% on the BSE. On Thursday it had plunged over 5%.

"On an operational basis, HDFCB has been consistently performing on its guidance in its endeavour to revert to its pre-merger levels across metrics, and its execution capabilities remain strong," Axis Securities analysts wrote in a note. "However, the stock has already de-rated significantly and currently trades at .... meaningfully below five-year average."

"While re-rating was contingent on the bank's performance improving and RoA stabilising at near pre-merger levels, the current development will further delay the re-rating of the stock," it said.

"Governance credibility and management stability are critical factors, and ambiguity, especially around board-level exits citing values and ethics, would result in a near-term cap on upside, despite operational performance remaining healthy and on an improving trajectory. Clarity on leadership succession, including appointment of a permanent chairman and progress on MD and CEO re-appointment, is key catalyst," it said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	74,533	0.44
US Dollar	93.71	-0.88
Brent oil	109.97	-0.65

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1927.10	-9.70
Adani Ports	1365.40	9.40
Apollo Hosp	7364.50	112.50
Asian Paints	2195.40	9.40
Axis Bank	1203.90	-3.10
Bajaj Auto	9051.00	182.50
Bajaj Finserv	1710.30	-4.60
Bajaj Finance	830.55	-1.65
Bharat Elec	426.10	-4.70
Bharti Airtel	1846.10	19.10
Cipla	1256.40	17.20
Coal India	468.15	13.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1298.90	24.40
Eicher Motors	6909.00	116.00
Eternal Ltd.	232.29	3.55
Grasim Ind	2616.30	8.40
HCL Tech	1333.70	21.90
HDFC Bank	780.45	-17.75
HDFC Life	623.65	-9.85
Hindalco	874.25	-22.80
Hind Unilever	2082.70	5.40
ICICI Bank	1245.40	-4.70
IntGlobeAvi	4149.10	-5.20
Infosys	1255.90	35.10
ITC	299.95	1.95
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	239.30	-0.15
JSW Steel	1169.60	38.70
Kotak Bank	366.75	-1.40
L&T	3434.80	0.30
M&M	3066.10	20.70
Maruti Suzuki	12601.00	2.00
Max Healthcare	964.80	11.70
NestleIndia	1193.60	7.30
NTPC	380.95	6.90
ONGC	265.40	-3.70
PowerGrid Corp	297.60	0.90
Reliance Ind	1414.40	29.60
SBI Life	1896.90	-6.20
State Bank	1058.00	9.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	938.60	-11.20
Sun Pharma	1777.10	32.70
TataConsumerProduct	1050.20	5.60
Tata Steel	196.77	6.26
TCS	2390.60	34.60
Tech Mahindra	1384.80	44.20
Titan	4106.60	68.70
Tata Motors PV	314.10	4.80
Trent Ltd.	3559.60	77.70
UltraTech Cement	10934.00	120.00
Wipro	190.90	2.49

Forex reserve slips $7 billion

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

India's forex reserves dropped $7.052 billion to $709.759 billion during the week ended March 13, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped $11.683 billion to $716.81 billion. The kitty expanded to an all-time high of $725.727 billion during the week ended February 13.

For the week ended March 13, foreign currency assets fell $7.678 billion to $555.568 billion.

Panic buying in West Asia aids rice, food item exports

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

A section of rice and food product exporters have reported growing volumes to West Asian countries due to panic buying despite the double freight and triple rise in insurance cost which has led to price increase in those markets.

"Whenever such geopolitical issues triggered, we had seen actually demand for food going up. In such situations, people take double the quantity to store in their houses. So, generally the demand goes up and this has happened in this case also," said Rahul Suri, director, Amir Chand Jagdish Kumar (Exports) Ltd., a Super Star Trading house dealing with rice exports.

"But the problem is logistics and cost of logistics. Recently many ports in West Asian countries have opened up so there are ways for exports to those markets. But the freight and insurance cost is bit higher," he said.

However, customers in those markets are willing to pay premium to procure stocks in such situations because of increased demand, he said.

"Because of increased demand from West Asian markets, we do not face any problem in exports," Mr. Suri said.

He said in a situation of double, the freight cost and triple insurance cost, the prices of products go up by 2% to 3% which is not much in such situations. "Exports have started going to many impacted West Asian countries. There will be an increase in demand as panic buying triggers much more consumption," Mr. Suri added.

JSW Cement forays into north with new plant in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Plant is equipped with 3.30 MTPA clinkerisation unit and 2.50 MTPA cement grinding unit

JSW Cement Ltd. said it has commenced production at its greenfield, integrated cement manufacturing plant in the district of Nagaur in Rajasthan - its first such facility in north India.

With this foray into the northern region, the company's total cement grinding capacity stands at 24.1 MTPA and the total clinker manufacturing capacity (including the clinker capacity at the company's joint venture, JSW Cement FZC) stands at 9.74 MTPA.

The Nagaur-integrated plant is equipped with a 3.30 MTPA clinkerisation unit and a 2.50 MTPA cement grinding unit.

Grinding unit

Further, an additional 1.00 MTPA cement grinding unit is under construction at this site. This facility can cater to the high-growth markets in Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and the National Capital Region (NCR), the company said.

The Nagaur unit has been funded through a mix of equity and long-term debt. The company allocated ₹800 crore from the fresh issue proceeds of its Initial Public Offering (IPO) specifically towards part-financing of this unit.

Parth Jindal, MD, said: "The commencement of production at the Nagaur, Rajasthan facility is a pivotal moment for JSW Cement. Our aim, as outlined during IPO, was to put the company firmly on the path of becoming a pan-India player and with this commissioning the company enters the fast-growing Northern Indian market."

RBI injects ₹25,101 cr. in banking system via 3-day VRR auction

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday injected ₹25,101 crore transient liquidity in the banking system through a three-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction.

The RBI injected the funds at cut-off and weighted average rates of 5.26%, the central bank said in a release.

The liquidity injected was much lower than the notified amount of ₹75,000 crore, despite a sharp drop in surplus liquidity in the banking system due to advance tax payments. On March 17, the RBI injected ₹48,014 crore liquidity into the banking system via VRR.

Provide more funds to APEDA: House panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee of Parliament on Commerce, headed by Trinamool Congress MP in Rajya Sabha Dola Sen, recommended increased budgetary allocations for Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to help farmers and exporters to meet international export standards. "In view of the expanding scope of traceability systems and the increasing need for compliance with stringent international standards, the Committee recommends that adequate budgetary allocation be provided to APEDA."

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, SMS HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
(Swai Ram Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan-302004)
No. F-10()/Security Cell/SMSH/2025-26/NIB No.1949 Dated :- 13/03/2026
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for the Security Services (Security Guards) for various places in SMS Hospital, Jaipur for two years rate contract are invited from interested bidders up to 16-04-2026 on 3.00 PM Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.) of the state.
(UBN NO. MCJ2526SLRC00168)
DIPR/C/5582/2026 Medical Superintendent

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) invites online tender, for the following work:
Tender No.T25P090671: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning of 04 Nos. 25 MVA, 33/11 kV Transformer including dismantling of existing 02 Nos. 20 MVA and 02 Nos. 16 MVA, Transformers with associated civil work at 220 kV Sub-Station, Lodhi Road on turnkey basis (Risk & Cost Purchase basis).
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :- https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_288852_1) and www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. DTL-9940-190326.
Last date for bid submission: **08.05.2026 at 01:30 P.M.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

KARNATAKA STATE NATURAL DISASTER MONITORING CENTRE (KSNDMC)
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Road, Near Attur Layout, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064. Ph.: 080-67355000
No. KSNDMC/ACT/13/2020 Date: 18.03.2026
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
KSNDMC invites tenders for the following through e-procurement portal on **"https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in."** Tenders are invited for **(a)** Supply, Installation and Comprehensive Annual maintenance of Telemetric Rain gauge stations in 1530 locations in Karnataka vide Tender No. KSNDMC/2025-26/IND0003/Call-2. Last date for submission of bid is **06.04.2026,** pre bid meeting is on **26.03.2026 at 11.00AM** and **(b)** Tender No. KSNDMC/2025-26/IND0004//Call-2 for Supply, installation, refurbishment and Comprehensive annual maintenance of Telemetric Rain gauge stations in 429 locations in Karnataka. Last date for submission of bid is **06.04.2026,** pre bid meeting is on **26.03.2026 at 12.00PM** at KSNDMC. Further the tender document details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of GoK.
Sd/- Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500062
ADVT. NO. NFC/01/2026
Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following posts in Industrial Establishments of Nuclear Fuel Complex-Hyderabad, Telangana; Zirconium Complex- Pazhayakayal, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu and Nuclear Fuel Complex-Kota, Rawatbhata, Rajasthan under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

Sl.No.	Post Code	Post and Group	Pay Level	No. of Vacancies
1.	12601	Scientific Officer /C (General Duty Medical Officer) [Group 'A' Gazetted]	Rs. 56,100/- in Level 10 of Pay Matrix + NPA	UR – 02, OBC – 01
2.	12602	Nurse /A [Group 'B' Non-Gazetted]	Rs. 44,900/- in Level 7 of Pay Matrix	UR-08, SC-01 OBC-01, EWS-01
3.	12603	Scientific Assistant /B (Radiographer) [Group 'B' Non-Gazetted]	Rs.35,400/- in Level 6 of Pay Matrix	UR-01
4.	12604	Scientific Assistant /B (Pathology Technician) [Group 'B' Non-Gazetted]	Rs.35,400/- in Level 6 of Pay Matrix	UR-01
5.	12605	Pharmacist /B [Group 'C' Non-Gazetted]	Rs.29,200/- in Level 5 of Pay Matrix	UR-01
6.	12606	Technician/B (X-ray Technician) [Group 'C' Non-Gazetted]	Rs. 21,700/- in Level 3 of Pay Matrix	UR-01

Post Codes 12602 and 12605 are identified suitable for PwBDs.
Last date for submission of online application is 18.04.2026. Candidates are required to visit NFC website https://www.nfc.gov.in or https://www.recruit.nfc.gov.in for detailed advertisement and submission of online application.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
Ministry Of Science And Technology
Government Of India
DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
GRADUATE APTITUDE TEST – BIOTECHNOLOGY (GAT -B) 2026
AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY ELIGIBILITY TEST (BET) 2026
Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, through nodal agency, Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad announces the following National examinations:
1. **Graduate Aptitude Test-Biotechnology (GAT-B) for admission to Department of Biotechnology supported Post Graduate Programme in Biotechnology and allied areas in participating Institutions.**
2. **Biotechnology Eligibility Test (BET) for award of DBT – Junior Research Fellowship (DBT-JRF) for pursuing research in frontier areas of Biotechnology and Life Sciences.**

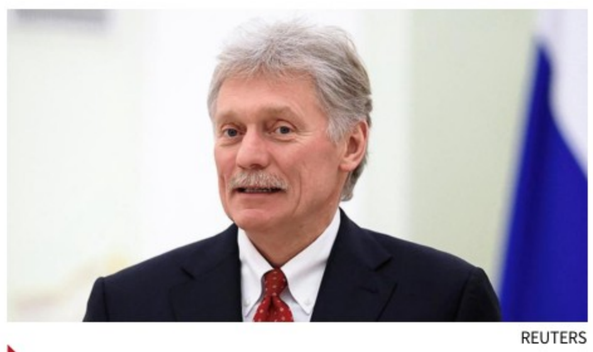
Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad, on behalf of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India is conducting GAT-B 2026 and BET 2026 through the National Testing Agency (NTA). NTA has been established by Ministry of Education, Government of India as an autonomous, self-reliant and self-sustained premier testing organization.

Start and end date of submission of online application forms	19 March 2026 to 09 April 2026 (upto 5:00 PM)
Last date of submission of online application fee	09 April 2026 (upto 11:50 PM)
Date and Time of GAT-B-2026	17 May 2026 (Sunday) from 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon
Date and Time of BET- 2026	17 May 2026 (Sunday) from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Mode of examination	Computer Based Objective Test
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice questions
Exam fee	For GAT-B 2026: Rs.650/- for SC/ST/PwD and Rs 1300/- for all others
	For BET – 2026: Rs.650/- for SC/ST/PwD and Rs 1300/- for all others
	For both GAT-B & BET 2026 Rs.1300/- for SC/ST/PwD and Rs 2600/- for all others

Scheme, duration, medium, syllabus of examination, eligibility criteria, examination cities, important dates etc., are mentioned in the Information Bulletin, hosted at https://exams.nta.nic.in/gat-bet/, www.rcb.res.in, https://dbt.gov.in/
The syllabus for BET is given at https://rcb.res.in/upload/DBT-JRF%20BET-%202021%20Syllabus.pdf
The Syllabus for GAT-B is given at https://rcb.res.in/DBTPG/
Candidates who wish to appear in the examination(s) may read the detailed Information Bulletin for GAT-B 2026 and BET 2026 and apply online only at https://exams.nta.nic.in/gat-bet/ https://dbt.gov.in/ www.rcb.res.in
The examination fee is also required to be paid online, as mentioned above through Net Banking/Debit Card/Credit Card/ UPI/Wallet.
Candidates are also advised to visit the above websites from time-to-time for any updates. Please write to dbt@nta.ac.in or call 011-40759000 for any help.

MOSCOW

Russia says it will help Cuba, but no comment on oil deliveries



REUTERS

Russia said on Friday it was ready to help its crisis-hit ally Cuba, but declined to comment on whether it had shipped deliveries of oil to the Caribbean island. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said: "We are in constant contact with our Cuban friends, and we are indeed discussing possible options for providing assistance." AFP

JERUSALEM

Netanyahu denies slamming Jesus by comparing him to Genghis Khan

AP

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected accusations on Friday that he had intended to offend Christians when he said the previous day that Jesus had "no advantage" over Genghis Khan. "More fake news about my attitude towards Christians. Let me be clear: I did not denigrate Jesus Christ at my news conference." AFP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka refused ground access to U.S. warplanes, says Dissanayake

REUTERS

Sri Lanka refused permission to the United States to station two of its warplanes at a civilian airport in the island's south in early March, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake said on Friday. Washington wanted to relocate two of its missile-armed aircraft from a base in Djibouti to Mattala International Airport, he said. AFP

LOS ANGELES

Chuck Norris, roundhouse-kicking action star, dead at 86, says family

AP

Chuck Norris, the U.S. martial artist and Hollywood tough guy most famous for his role in the *Walker, Texas Ranger* television series, has died on Thursday, his family said on Friday. He was 86. Local media reported that he had been hospitalised for an undisclosed condition while on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. AFP

U.S. govt. sues Harvard over anti-Israel protests

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration filed a lawsuit on Friday against Harvard University, accusing the institution of allowing a "hostile environment" toward Jewish and Israeli students during pro-Palestinian demonstrations on campus from 2023 to 2025.

In February, the Department of Justice filed a similar lawsuit against the University of California, Los Angeles.

In its new complaint, the DOJ said Harvard "faculty and leadership turned a blind eye to anti-Semitism and discrimination against Jews and Israelis," accusing the university of failing to enforce its own rules against pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli protesters.

In a statement responding to the lawsuit, Harvard said it "cares deeply about members of our Jewish and Israeli community and remains committed to ensuring they are embraced, respected, and can thrive on our campus".

Israel says Iran decimated; Mojtaba vows to fight on

Tehran no longer has the capacity to enrich uranium or manufacture ballistic missiles, says Israel's Netanyahu; Iran's Supreme Leader says the security of his nation's enemies would be 'taken away'

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
DUBAI/JERUSALEM

Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei called on Friday for the enemies of his nations to have their "security" taken away, in his latest message to the public.

Mr. Khamenei made the remarks in a statement issued on his behalf and sent to President Masoud Pezeshkian, after Israel killed Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib.

Mr. Khamenei hasn't been seen since he was named as Supreme Leader, succeeding his father, the 86-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in an Israeli air strike on the first day of the war on February 28.

'Iran decimated'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a news conference on Thursday that Israel and the U.S. were "winning and Iran is being decimated", adding that the Islamic republic no longer had the capacity to enrich uranium or manufacture ballistic missiles as the conflict heads towards a fourth week.

In charge: Motorists drive past a billboard of Iran's new Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei in Tehran. AFP

"We are winning and Iran is being decimated," Mr. Netanyahu said at a press conference.

"I also see this war ending a lot faster than people think," he said, without providing a specific time frame. He added that Israel saw "cracks" in the Iranian leadership and was trying to exploit them.

Tehran has stepped up attacks on Gulf nations' energy infrastructure in recent days, spooking markets and raising alarm that inflation would surge globally. Energy markets were left reeling after Iranian missiles hit Qatar's huge Ras Laffan natural gas complex in retaliation for Israel's air raid on the South Pars gas field this week.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier indicated he did not know in advance about Israel's raid on South Pars, which supplies about 70% of Iran's domestic needs.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel acted alone with the strike and it would respect Mr. Trump's request to hold off on future attacks on the gas field.

Mr. Netanyahu said that changing the government in Tehran would require "a ground component".

In his Id message, Mr. Khamenei said the U.S. and Israel "miscalculated" Iran's response when they launched the war.

"Due to a gross miscalculation, [the U.S. and Israel] believed that after 1-2 days, the people would overthrow the regime. However, with the vigilance of the people and the unparalleled bravery and self-sacrifice of the Islamic combatants, signs of his distress soon appeared," he said.

Trump calls NATO allies 'cowards' over Iran issue

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday branded NATO allies "cowards" for not heeding his demand for military assistance against Iran to control the Strait of Hormuz shipping route.

Mr. Trump has recently veered between saying that Washington needs no help to secure the vital waterway for oil tankers, and then lashing out at other countries for failing to help.

"Without the U.S.A., NATO IS A PAPER TIGER!" Mr. Trump posted on his Truth Social network.

"They didn't want to join the fight to stop a Nuclear Powered Iran. Now that fight is Militarily WON, with very little danger for them, they complain about the high oil prices they are forced to pay, but don't want to help open the Strait of Hormuz, a simple military maneuver that is the single reason for the high oil prices." "So easy for them to do, with so little risk. COWARDS, and we will REMEMBER!"

A tanker sits anchored as the traffic is down in the Strait of Hormuz, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Muscat, Oman. REUTERS

The 79-year-old Republican, a long-term sceptic of the Western military alliance, has launched a series of diatribes against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in recent days.

Six major international powers said on Thursday they were ready "to contribute to" ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, though three stressed that any initiative would take place post-ceasefire.

Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the Netherlands said on Thursday they were ready "to contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz". The grouping said they "welcome the commitment of nations who are engaging in preparatory planning", as they condemned "in the strongest terms recent attacks by Iran on unarmed commercial vessels in the Gulf".

But Italy, Germany and France made clear later on Thursday that they were not talking about any immediate military help, but rather a potential multilateral initiative after a ceasefire.

None of the countries Mr. Trump has called on to help was consulted before the United States-Israeli mission started.

Iran and the politics of martyrdom

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On February 28, the U.S. and Israel assassinated Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the 86-year-old Supreme Leader of Iran, along with a number of other leaders. On March 17, an Israeli air strike killed Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council. The next day, Iran's intelligence minister was killed. This is not the first time Iran's senior military and political leaders are getting killed.

These killings are clear setbacks to Iran. But despite losing its top leaders and commanders, the Iranian state continues to function while its military refused to stop fighting against the U.S.-Israeli attack. If Israel and the U.S. thought the decapitation strikes would lead to a state collapse in Iran, the plan doesn't seem to be working.

Iran has a long tradition of statecraft, and the core tenets of Shia Islam has remained a defining factor of state behaviour for centuries. Since the Safavid dynasty adopted Shia Islam as the official religion of the Persian empire in the early 16th century, Iran (Persia) has been majority Shia. And since the 1979 Islamic revolution that overthrew the Pahlavi monarchy, the revolutionary state came to rest on two pillars: political Shiism and nationalism. In Iran, martyrdom lies at the heart of both.

People gather for the funeral of Iranian security chief Ali Larijani, amid the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran, in Tehran . REUTERS

Shias venerate their martyrs, beginning with Imam Ali. By assassinating Khamenei, Larijani and others, the U.S. and Israel have elevated them, in the eyes of their supporters, to a higher realm of martyrdom.

The first martyr

After Prophet Mohammed's death, his followers split over who should lead the *ummah* (the Muslim community). One faction backed Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law. The other supported Abu Bakr, a close companion of the Prophet, who became the first Caliph. Ali later became the fourth. Those who rallied behind Ali came to be known as Shias [Shi'at Ali], while the followers of the Rashidun Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali) formed the Sunni tradition. Ali was assassinated, becoming the first martyr in Shia memory. His son Hassan, the second Shia Imam, briefly assumed the Caliphate but abdicated under threats from the Umayyads. Hussein, Ali's younger son, refused to pledge loyalty to the Umayyad ruler, Yazid. In 680, Hussein and 72 of his followers were killed in Karbala, in today's Iraq, by the forces of Yazid.

The Battle for Karbala holds enormous significance in both Shia faith and political Shiism. For believers, Hussein, the Imam who refused to compromise even at the cost of his life, embodies the highest ideal of sacrifice. (Every year, Shias around the world mark Ashura, on the 10th of Muharram, with processions commemorating the martyrdom of Hussein.) During the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khomeini invoked both sacrifice and courage to mobilise opposition to Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The monarch, Khomeini argued, was the new Yazid. He called on Hussein's followers, "the oppressed", to rise. And they did.

After the revolution, many experts and world leaders doubted that the theocratic state would endure. Within a year, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Iran, hoping to hasten the collapse of the fledgling republic. The new state was struggling to stabilise a fractured post-revolutionary order. Leftists, trade unionists, Islamists and liberals had all opposed the Shah, and the clergy's consolidation of power deepened divisions within this coalition.

Core tenets

But Saddam's invasion changed the equation. Iranians rallied behind the flag; Saddam was cast as the modern-day Yazid. The Islamic Republic moved to purge leftists and liberals at home without provoking any regime-threatening backlash, while the war was under way. In effect, the conflict helped the clergy tighten its grip on power.

After Khamenei was killed on February 28, Larijani repeatedly invoked the ideas martyrdom. He said, "the children of Imam Hussein fear nothing". After Larijani was killed, Mojtaba Khamenei, current Supreme Leader, said, "shedding the blood of such people at the foot of the mighty tree of the Islamic system will only make it stronger". Iran's leaders know the post-revolutionary state faces its gravest challenge in 47 years. But their response is not to give up the fight and flee, but to embrace the ideological core of the revolutionary state – martyrdom, sacrifice and vengeance.

IndianOil
CIN : L23201MH1959GOI011388
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EOI)
IOCL has floated EOI and seeks participation of Manufacturers/ Technology Providers/ Equipment assemblers / Vendors (PARTY) having expertise in designing & supplying and providing solutions for separating Sludge from Oil. All experienced PARTIES are requested to participate in the EOI. Last date for participation in EOI is 03/04/2026. For details kindly refer the Tender ID: 2026_RND_189371_1 in following given weblink (https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app)

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कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(साईन्स पार्क के पास, शास्त्री नगर, जयपुर)
क्रमांक :– जसअ / 2025 / 543 दिनांक: 16.03.2026
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 90 से 95/2025–26
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के विभागों में पंजीकृत "एए""ए" व अन्य उपयुक्त श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से विभिन्न विकास कार्यों की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण राज्य सरकार के ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.raj.nic.in तथा नगर निगम जयपुर की Web Site www.jaipurmc.org पर देखी व Download की जा सकती है तथा निर्धारित अवधि तक ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट वेब पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड की जा सकेगीं।
SPPP portal UBN No. JMC25-26WSOB02932To JMC25-26WSOB02936 व UBN No. JMC25-26WSOB02940
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
सिविल लाईन जोन
नगर निगम जयपुर
राज.संवाद / सी / 25 / 22932

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Tender Notice No. 70/2025-26/SE(W-East)/EE-III/DB/GVMC, Dt.18-03-2026
1. No. of Works : 6 Nos
2. Value of works (ECV) : Rs.626.17 Lakhs
3. Downloading Starting Date : 19-03-2026 @ 11.00 P.M.
4. Downloading End Date : 04-04-2026 @ 02.00 P.M.
5. Last date for Submission of bid : 04-04-2026 @ 03.00 P.M.
Further details at http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-III) Division. For Commissioner

C-CAMP
Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms
Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)
GKVK Campus, Bellary Road, Bangalore - 560 065
NIT NO : C-CAMP/BNG/Civil/Innovation Park/2025-26/EOI No.01
Dated : 17.03.2026
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
C-CAMP invites Expression of interest from interested Architects / Architectural firms for Comprehensive Architectural planning and Engineering design of its proposed Innovation park at GKVK campus Bangalore. The estimated cost of project Rs. 22200 lakhs.
The last date of submission of filled up copies is 29.04.2026
For details visit https://www.ccamp.res.in

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise) CIN-U74140DL1955GOI002481
RFPs for Selection of Vendors for Supply of Toolkits for 12 Trades under PM Vishwakarma Scheme
NSIC invites online Bids on GeM portal against RFPs stated in the title above on behalf of Ministry of MSME.
The details of the RFPs are available under the web-links https://gem.gov.in/ and https://www.nsic.co.in/Tenders/Index and may be downloaded.
Last date for submission of proposal : 01.04.2026 & 06.04.2026.
Pre-Bid Meeting: Refer GeM Portal & NSIC website for Schedule & Venue.
Any further announcement/corrigendum regarding above RFPs will be made available on above two web-links.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHARATPUR
No.: NNB/consultancy/2025-2026/2204 Date:- 16.03.2026
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS No. 40/2025-26
Nagar Nigam Bharatpur invites Single-stage Two Part (envelope) Online unconditional open competitive bids through www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders/ consultant having their registration with any Central/state/ Government/semi Government organization, in competent category for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Sewerage / Wastewater works for Bharatpur Town on Lump sum/ item rate basis. The document can be seen and downloaded from the website http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, Tender are to be submitted online in electronic format as per schedule given below:

Name of Work	Cost of Project for which Consultant is required Rs. in Cr.	Tender Cost (DPR Cost)	Tender Fee	Processing/ RISL Fee	Earnest Money (Rs.) -2%	Tender Download from website Start date	Date of pre bid meeting	Tender download end date and time	Tender Submission End Date online submission	Physical documents deposit in Nagar Nigam Bharatpur	Date of Opening of Technical Proposal	Time period
Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Sewerage / Waste water Management Project for Bharatpur Town.	INR 182.55	INR 91.27 Lakh	1500	1500	182540	17.03.2026 4:00 PM	24.03.2026 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM	27.03.2026 06.00 PM	27.03.2026 06.00 PM	30.03.2026 02:00 PM	30.03.2026 4.00 PM	2 Month

UBN No. - DLB2526SLOB38896
Raj.Samwad/C/25/22976
Commissioner
Municipal Corporation Bharatpur

SHIFTING PRIORITIES

New dad Ferguson to sit out Punjab Kings' early games

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

New Zealand speedster Lockie Ferguson is set to miss the early stages of IPL 2026 for Punjab Kings. Ferguson said that the arrival of his newborn son has shifted his priorities. "Trying to spend as much time as I can at home and help the wife out," Ferguson said in Auckland before the third T20I against South Africa on Friday.

SETBACK

Sunrisers all-rounder Edwards ruled out due to foot injury

GETTY IMAGES

Australia all-rounder Jack Edwards has been ruled out of IPL 2026 due to a foot injury. The 25-year-old was signed by Sunrisers Hyderabad for ₹3 crore. He was the only uncapped overseas player to be signed up at the last auction. Edwards made his T20I debut for Australia against Pakistan in January.

RENEWED VIGOUR

Chahal quits alcohol, focuses on fitness as he gears up for IPL

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Punjab Kings leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has revealed that he has quit alcohol as part of a renewed focus on fitness and performance ahead of IPL 2026. Speaking to AB de Villiers on the YouTube channel *AB de Villiers 360*, he said: "I've some good news for you: I stopped drinking alcohol. It's been more than six months".

VALUABLE ADDITION

Skipper Pant all praise for new LSG bowling coach Arun

X@LUCKNOWIPL

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant praised the addition of B. Arun as the franchise's new bowling coach. "The camp with the fast bowlers has been fantastic. Arun sir has come on board and he has been adding a lot of value. The energy is pure. He is one of the best bowling coaches," Pant said.

Gill's Titans bank on their tried-and-tested formula

The Gujarat franchise's chances could hinge on the middle-order's productivity; the batting top-three and bowling attack have loads of experience; Holder may prove to be an invaluable asset

IPL-19 COUNTDOWN

Gujarat Titans

CHAMPION 2022

OVERALL NUMBERS

Matches 60

Won 37

Lost 23

BY OPPONENT

TEAM	M	W	L
CSK	8	4	4
DC	7	4	3
KKR	4	3	1
LSG	7	4	3
MI	8	5	3
PBKS	6	3	3
RCB	6	3	3
RR	8	6	2
SRH	6	5	1

GT's 2026 LEAGUE CAMPAIGN*

March 31	vs. PBKS	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 4	vs. RR	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
April 8	vs. DC	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 12	vs. LSG	Lucknow	3.30 p.m.

*announced so far

THE SQUAD

Shubman Gill (Capt.), Sai Sudharsan, Jos Buttler, Kumar Kushagra, Anuj Rawat, Tom Banton, Glenn Phillips, Nishant Sindhu, Washington Sundar, Mohd. Arshad Khan, Sai Kishore, Jayant Yadav, Jason Holder, Shahrukh Khan, Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Singh Brar, Ishant Sharma, Ashok Sharma, Prithvi Raj Yarra, Luke Wood, Rahul Tewatia, Rashid Khan.

MIRACLE MAN

Shubman Gill

Shubman Gill isn't just GT's best batter; he's their operating system. He dictates tempo without needing to force it, which is rarer than it sounds in T20 cricket. There's a certain quiet to the way Gill goes about it — no rush, no visible strain, just control that slowly becomes dominance. When Gill bats long, the game tends to follow a script GT understands.

COMPILED BY **G. PRASAD & S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN**

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Gujarat Titans doesn't do anything impulsively. It doesn't chase the auction. At the IPL 2026 auction, what it did was very on-brand: identify a structural gap, fill it with precision, and trust a system that has rarely let it down.

Jason Holder was not only the headline but also the metaphor. Not the flashiest name on the board, not the most expensive, but exactly what it needed. GT has, at times, looked like a team toggling between one batter short and one bowler light. Holder resolves that duality. And the timing helps: coming off a T20 World Cup where he struck at 174.07 and contributed with the ball. This isn't just depth, it's form meeting function.

Keys to success: GT will expect good returns from Sai Sudharsan and Prasidh, who won the Orange Cap and Purple Cap, respectively, last season. FILE PHOTOS: VIJAY SONEJI

Calm before the storm

At the top, GT's identity remains intact. Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan bring a kind of quiet inevitability with innings that build rather than burst. They don't attack the PowerPlay as much as they occupy it with intent. There's a calm accumulation, an understanding of tempo that rarely spirals.

At No. 3, Jos Buttler is the disruptor, even if his recent form has been underwhelming. But with Buttler, form is a fickle metric – rhythm can return as suddenly as it disappears.

The middle-order is where the conversation lingers. Washington Sundar, Shahrukh Khan, Rahul Tewatia – there's a collection of skills rather than certainty.

Tewatia exists in the margins of probability – often finishing games that go slightly off-script. Shahrukh is still oscillating between promise and proof. Washington, though, feels like the hinge. If he moves up and delivers, the batting order stretches into something more robust. Youngster Kumar Kushagra, fresh off a strong domestic T20 campaign, may also get a look in.

With the ball, there is very little ambiguity. Mohammed Siraj, Kagiso Rabada, and Prasidh Krishna provide pace, height, and hit-the-deck consistency.

Rashid Khan, meanwhile, remains the constant though no longer the surprise. He's still elite despite a below-par last season. If Rashid doesn't quite click, GT can rely on Sai Kishore and Washington to step up.

There is a slight asymmetry here – a right-arm heavy pace attack in a league increasingly dictated by match-ups. It's a small detail, but in tight games, small details tend to grow.

Gill, in his third year as captain, sits within a system that doesn't demand reinvention. There's continuity here, and with it, a kind of quiet authority. Holder's presence only adds another layer of on-field intelligence.

Ultimately, GT's title hopes hinge on whether its middle-order can turn promise into production.

Rahane embraces captaincy challenge

Rahane. PTI

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Despite overhauling the squad after a disappointing title defence in 2025, Kolkata Knight Riders has retained faith in skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who said on Friday that he is embracing the responsibility with calmness and positivity.

Rahane, who topped KKR's scoring charts last season with 390 runs, could not prevent the team from finishing eighth with just five wins in 14 matches.

But the veteran insisted that pressure is nothing new, and that he is focused on approaching challenges with the right mindset.

"Every year, there are different challenges as a player and also as a captain. What I learned throughout my journey is to be positive each and every time, whatever the challenges are," the 37-year-old said during a KKR media interaction.

"I am taking everything in my stride, taking everything in a positive way. I always see the opportunities," added Rahane.

Anahat meets Tanvi; Abhay, Veer in last four

SQUASH

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

Top seed Anahat Singh and unseeded Tanvi Khanna will meet in the women's singles semifinals of the JSW Indian Open squash tournament after registering facile wins in the last-eight phase on Friday. However, Joshna Chinappa lost 8-11, 11-8, 6-11, 1-11 to Egypt's Nadien El Hammamy. In the men's section, second seed Abhay Singh and fourth-seeded Veer Chotrani entered the semifinals. While the former got past Egypt's Yassin Shohdy 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, the latter defeated another Egyptian Mohamed Sharaf in straight games.

Hanging tough: Tanvi kept her cool to prevail in four games.

Anahat underlined her status as one of the top contenders for the title with an 11-2, 11-6, 11-4 victory over Malaysia's Sehveetrraa Kumar.

The No. 1 seed raced through the opening game 11-2 but faced some resistance from the Malaysian in the second before winning 11-6. In the third, Anahat dictated the pace and cruised home.

Tanvi stunned fourth seed Ainaa Amani 11-6, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8. She won the opening game with ease before the latter levelled it with an 11-7 win. Tanvi, however, held her nerve in the remaining games.

The results (quarterfinals):
Women: Anahat Singh bt Sehveetrraa Kumar (Mas) 11-2, 11-6, 11-4; Tanvi Khanna bt Ainaa Amani (Mas) 11-6, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8; Nadien Elhammamy (Egy) bt Joshna Chinappa 11-8, 8-11, 11-6, 11-1; Hana Moataz (Egy) bt Yasshmita Jadishkumar (Mas) 11-8, 8-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8.
Men: Abhay Singh bt Yassin Shohdy (Egy) 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 11-7; Sanjay Jeeva (Mas) bt Ibrahim Elkabbani (Egy) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8; Ameeshenraj Chandaran (Mas) bt Duncan Lee (Mas) 8-3, retd.; Veer Chotrani bt Mohamed Sharaf (Egy) 11-9, 11-8, 11-2.

Diya, Manav in semis; Yashaswini stuns Sreeja

TABLE TENNIS

Amol Karhadkar
INDORE

The penultimate day of the 87th National Table Tennis Championships witnessed seeds tumble at the Abhay Prashal Indoor Stadium here on Friday as the race for a place in India's squad for the World Championships in May intensified.

Defending champion Diya Chitale, who survived a major scare against Mumbai teenager Divyanshi Bhowmick in the quarterfinals, was the only top-four seed to progress to the semifinals in the women's draw.

Yashaswini Ghorpade upset top seed Sreeja Akula 11-7, 11-2, 8-11, 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 13-11 in a thrilling contest.

Big scalp: Yashaswini edged out top seed Sreeja. AMOL KARHADKAR

In men's singles, Manav Thakkar kept his hopes of a maiden National title alive.

Gets past Kushal

The bespectacled paddler halted the impressive run of giant-killer Kushal Chopda, who had earlier defeated eighth seed S.F.R. Snehit.

Second seed and defending champion Manush Shah suffered a surprise loss to 15th seed Jeet Chandra in the pre-quarterfinals.

Jeet, then, was involved in a marathon quarterfinal against H. Jeho. In a 65-minute battle, Jeet edged past Jeho, capitalising on two errors from his opponent in the closing stages.

Third seed Payas Jain was another big casualty, going down to left-hander Neil Mulye in the round of 32. Neil, however, could not build on his upset win and was eliminated by Raegan Albuquerque in the round of 16.

The results: Women's singles:
Quarterfinals: Yashaswini Ghorpade (PSPB) bt Sreeja Akula (RBI) 11-7, 11-2, 8-11, 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 13-11; Suhana Saini (Har) bt Sutirtha Mukherjee (RSPB) 8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 13-11, 11-9, 16-14; Syndrela Das (PSPB) bt Yashini Sivashankar (TN) 11-6, 11-8, 11-9, 11-9; Diya Chitale (RBI) bt Divyansi Bhowmick (Mah) 11-7, 11-9, 11-2, 7-11, 8-11, 6-11, 11-4.
Doubles: Final: Sutirtha Mukherjee & Kaushani Nath (RSPB) bt Avisha Karmakar & Nandini Saha (AAI) 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-5.
Semifinals: Avisha & Nandini bt Aarti Chaudhury & Avani Tripathi (UP) 11-9, 11-8, 11-4.
Sutirtha & Kaushani bt Frenaz Chipia & Fatema Kadri (Guj) 11-7, 11-5, 11-7.
Men's singles: Quarterfinals: Manav Thakkar (PSPB) bt Kushal Chopda (Mah) 11-7, 9-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-7; Harmeet Desai (PSPB) bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 11-8, 14-12; Ronit Bhanja (RSPB) bt Raegan Albuquerque (Mah) 7-11, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8; Jeet Chandra (RSPB) bt H. Jeho (Miz) 11-7, 6-11, 9-11, 15-13, 11-7, 12-14, 11-9.
Doubles: Final: Jeet Chandra & Anirban Ghosh (RSPB) bt Ronit Bhanja & S. Preyesh Raj (RSPB) 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 1-11, 11-8.
Semifinals: Jeet & Anirban bt M.R. Balamurugan & Siddhesh Pande (TN) 11-13, 11-4, 14-12, 11-7.
Ronit & Preyesh bt Sanil Shetty & Divyansh Srivastava (PSPB) 7-11, 11-6, 13-11, 11-8.

Mumbai goes top with a narrow win over Mohun Bagan

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mumbai City FC carved out a narrow yet impressive 1-0 win over defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant in an ISL encounter at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday.

The only goal came from winger Noufal P.N., who struck midway through the first half to tilt the contest in the visitor's favour. The victory lifted Mumbai to the top of the standings with 14 points from six matches, while Bagan slipped to second with 13 off six.

Mumbai settled into the contest after a cautious start and began to threaten through swift counter-attacks. It came close to taking the lead in the 22nd minute when Lallianzuala Chhangte was released by a precise pass from Jorge Pereyra Diaz, but goalkeeper Vishal Kaith produced a sharp save, with Mehtab Singh clearing the rebound.

The breakthrough arrived in the 27th minute following a fluent attacking move. Pereyra Diaz combined neatly with Joni Kauko before the ball was worked across to an unmarked Noufal, who calmly curled a low shot past Kaith.

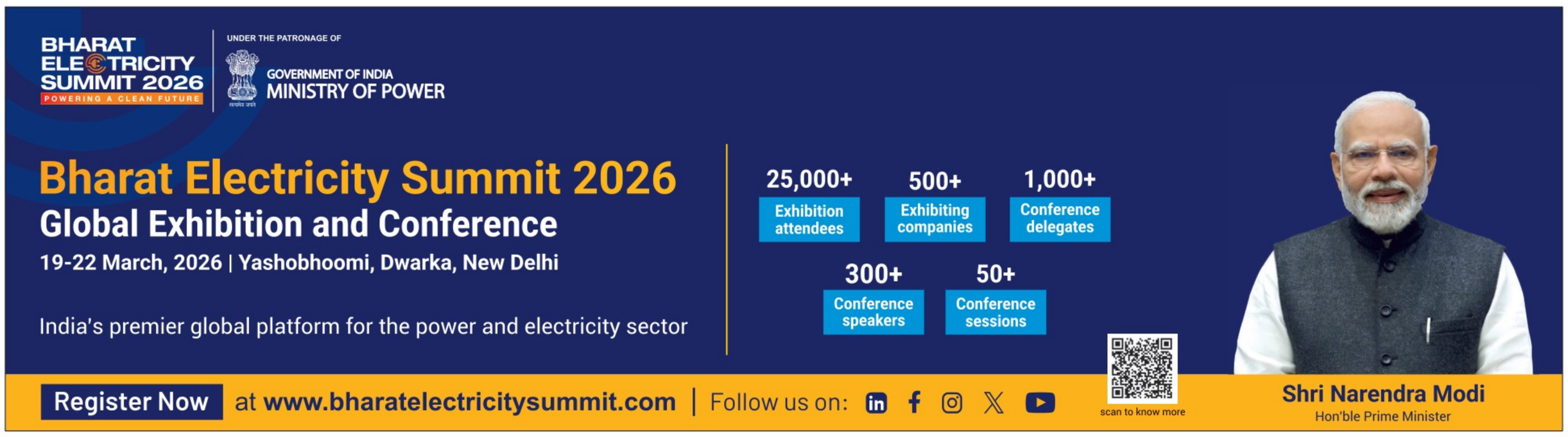
Noufal. ISL

Bagan responded strongly and could have equalised in the 39th minute. Dimitri Petratos whipped in a teasing cross that Jason Cummings directed goalwards, but Mumbai goalkeeper Phurba Lachenpa produced a vital save. After the break, the away side adopted a disciplined defensive approach, restricting Bagan's chances. Despite pressure from the host, the visitor held firm.

First victory for Odisha

Odisha FC bagged its maiden victory of the season after thrashing 10-man NorthEast United FC 4-1 in Guwahati. NorthEast was reduced to 10 men in the 36th minute when M. Mayakkannan was controversially sent off.

The results: Mohun Bagan SG 0 lost to Mumbai City FC 1 (Noufal P.N. 27). **At Guwahati:** NorthEast United FC 1 (Macarton Nickson 10) lost to Odisha FC 4 (Rahul K.P. 6, 65, Subham 25, Macarton Nickson 68-og).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INBRIEF

O'Sullivan makes history with highest-ever break of 153

Ronnie O'Sullivan snookered his opponent to earn a free ball and cleared the table to make the highest break in the sport's history with a 153, six more than the maximum 147, during his quarterfinal with Ryan Day at the World Open on Friday. O'Sullivan left Day's cue ball positioned behind other balls at the beginning of the frame, and after Day failed to hit it, the seven-time World champion potted a green as an extra red and then put away a black. The 50-year-old then reeled off 15 reds, 13 blacks and two pinks before clearing the colours to land the record-breaking score. The previous professional record of 148 was set by Jamie Burnett at the UK Championship qualifiers in 2004.

FIFA slaps $190,700 fine on Israeli Football Association

FIFA fined the Israeli Football Association (IFA) $190,700 on Thursday for "multiple breaches" of its anti-discrimination obligations. A report by the disciplinary committee of world football's governing body found the IFA "failed to take meaningful action against Beitar Jerusalem" for "persistent and well-documented racist behaviour". In October 2024, the Palestine Football Association reported allegations of discrimination by the IFA to FIFA, which began an investigation. FIFA did not opt for the sanction requested by the Palestinian FA, which argued that the IFA should be suspended. But the IFA was found to have failed to "abide by FIFA's statutory objectives", in a lengthy decision published by its disciplinary committee, which listed several racist incidents in Israeli football.

James ties NBA record for most regular-season games

LeBron James tied the NBA record for most regular-season games played as his Los Angeles Lakers took on the Miami Heat on Thursday. James took the court for his 1,611th regular-season game, equalling Hall of Famer Robert Parish's record. Playing in his unprecedented 23rd season, James already holds a host of NBA records, including points scored, field goals made and field goals attempted.

Injured Salah ruled out of Liverpool's Brighton clash

Injured Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah will miss Saturday's trip to Brighton & Hove Albion in the Premier League and Egypt's friendly with Spain on March 31, manager Arne Slot said on Friday.

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 6. 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Squash: Indian Open, FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Ferguson, Latham star as Kiwis take lead

The speedster concedes just nine runs from his four overs while scalping one as the Black Caps restrict the Proteas to 136 for nine after opting to bowl on a spicy Eden Park track; the left-handed opener makes an unbeaten 63 to take the home team past the finish line with 22 balls to spare

CRICKET

Agence France-Presse
AUCKLAND

A miserly bowling display helped New Zealand gain a 2-1 lead in the five-match T20I series against South Africa with an eight-wicket win here on Friday.

Speedster Lockie Ferguson conceded just nine runs from his four overs as South Africa was restricted to 136 for nine in the third T20I at a postage stamp Eden Park ground renowned for 200-plus scores.

Tom Latham guided the host to victory with 22 balls remaining, making an unbeaten 63.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner elected to field, putting South Africa in on a wicket sporting more grass than usual.

The decision was vindicated during a fruitful PowerPlay for the host as it snared three wickets for just 41 runs.

Ferguson bowled with pace and accuracy to get Wiaan Mulder for a duck, before Santner removed Connor Esterhuizen and Ben Sears had Tony de Zorzi.

Two more wickets fell in the three overs after the PowerPlay as the Proteas slumped to 46 for five, Jason Smith and Rubin Hermann departing tamely.

Teenage fast bowler Nqobani Mokoena made 26 not out from 20 balls, hitting three massive sixes and a four in the closing overs.

Sears, Santner and Jamieson took two wickets each while Ferguson had one wicket from his stingy spell.

Kiwi openers Devon Conway, who hit a 49-ball 60 in his side's 68-run win in the second T20I, and Latham played with caution as South Africa's opening bowlers found swing and seam.

Both batters cut loose, hitting Lutho Sipamla for 21 runs in the fourth over.

The pair combined for a 96-run opening stand before Conway fell for a 26-ball 39 at the end of the 11th over.

The scores: South Africa 136/9 in 20 overs (Kyle Jamieson 2/42, Mitchell Santner 2/21, Ben Sears 2/27) lost to New Zealand 137/2 in 16.2 overs (Devon Conway 39, Tom Latham 63 n.o.).
Toss: New Zealand.
PoM: Lockie Ferguson.

Keeping it tight: Ferguson, who produced a miserly spell, was the pick of the Kiwi bowlers. GETTY IMAGES

WORK MODE

Gearing up: RCB captain Rajat Patidar, Devdutt Padikkal, Tim David and batting coach Dinesh Karthik during a training session at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Injured Ronaldo to miss Portugal's pre-WC friendlies

Agence France-Presse
LISBON

Cristiano Ronaldo, who is currently nursing a hamstring injury, was, on Friday, left out of the Portugal squad to play pre-World Cup friendlies against tournament co-hosts Mexico and the United States later this month.

The 41-year-old has not played for his Saudi club Al-Nassr since the end of February, but Portugal coach Roberto Martinez insisted that Ronaldo's participation at what would be a record sixth World Cup was "not at risk".

"It's a minor injury," Martinez said at a press conference, adding that the five-time Ballon d'Or winner could be back "within one or two weeks".

"Everything Cristiano has done physically during this season shows that he's going through an excellent spell and that there are no physical problems.

Nothing alarming: Martinez said Ronaldo's injury was minor and that he should be back within two weeks. FILE PHOTO

"At the World Cup, the centre-forward position will be for Cristiano Ronaldo and Goncalo Ramos. We are looking for a third striker with a different profile." Portugal will face Mexico on Saturday in Mexico City, and the United States three days later in Atlanta.

"This is the last chance to experiment, because it's the final training camp before the World Cup squad is named," said Martinez.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Diogo Costa, Jose Sa, Rui Silva; **Defenders:** Matheus Nunes, Diogo Dalot, Joao Cancelo, Nuno Mendes, Goncalo Inacio, Renato Veiga, Antonio Silva, Tomas Araujo; **Midfielders:** Ruben Neves, Samu Costa, Mateus Fernandes, Joao Neves, Vitinha, Bruno Fernandes, Rodrigo Mora; **Forwards:** Ricardo Horta, Pedro Goncalves, Joao Felix, Francisco Trincao, Francisco Conceicao, Rafael Leao, Pedro Neto, Goncalo Guedes, Goncalo Ramos.

A testing ground for the country's leading quarter-milers

INDIAN OPEN 400M

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 400 metres is one of India's strongest events in athletics at the continental level.

The seventh Indian Open 400m meet, which will be held at the LNCPE Athletics Stadium here on Saturday, gets special attention in the Asian Games year. It will be the testing ground for the country's leading quarter-milers.

The season opener has evoked strong interest in the men's category with 67 entries.

V. Muhammed Ajmal, Muhammed Anas, T.S. Manu and Amoj Jacob are some experienced runners in the fray.

Some of the youngsters like M. Sharan, who graduated from the under-20 category, will be competing in the men's event for the first time.

The focus will also be on the campers attached to the National Centre of Excellence in Thiruvananthapuram.

Opportunity
The event will be an opportunity for the coaches to assess their fitness and progress.

The women's event has attracted a significantly lesser number of entries (27). Hima Das, Vithya Ramraj, Jyothika Sri Dandi, Prachi, Gowri Nandana, Anu Raghavan and Poovama Raju are some of the prominent names.

Competition will also be held in u-20 and u-18 categories for boys and girls, respectively.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Saloni scalps four as Karnataka enters final

MUMBAI: P. Saloni starred for Karnataka again as she took her second successive four-wicket haul (four for 20) to guide her side to the final of the BCCI u-23 Women's One Day Trophy following a seven-wicket victory over Mumbai on Friday.
Saloni had also scalped four in the quarterfinal versus Uttarakhand (four for 18), and her effort over Mumbai was well complemented by Niki Prasad (49 n.o.) and Soumya Verma (45 n.o.) as Karnataka chased down the 135-run target in under 26 overs.
In Sunday's summit clash in Ranchi, Karnataka will take on Maharashtra, which overcame Tamil Nadu.
The scores: Mumbai 134 in 41.3 overs (P. Saloni 4/20) lost to Karnataka 135/3 in 25.5 overs (Niki Prasad 49 n.o., Soumya Verma 45 n.o.).
Quarterfinals: Karnataka 221 in 49.2 overs (Chandasi Krishnamurthy 45, Shreya S. Chavan 50) bt Uttarakhand 180 in 48.3 overs (Kalpana Verma 41 n.o., P. Saloni 4/18).

Shreesha, Naveen star in Canara Bank's facile victory

BENGALURU: Shreesha S. Achar (four for 18) and M.G. Naveen (50 n.o.) combined to fashion Canara Bank's eight-wicket win over AGORC in the KSCA (Group II) first division league tournament.
The scores: AGORC 108 in 16.1 overs (B.R. Sharath 62, Shreesha S. Achar 4/18) lost to Canara Bank 112/2 in 15.4 overs (M.G. Naveen 50 n.o.).

Thumping win for Ideal Sports Academy

Ideal Sports Academy beat Southern Alpha Sports Association 7-2 in the KSHA B-division hockey league here on Friday. On Thursday, Ashco Hockey Club defeated RBI 4-1.

Tanvi stuns Nidaira, advances to last four

BADMINTON

ANI
ORLEANS (FRANCE)

Indian shuttler Tanvi Sharma pulled off an upset 21-14, 21-14 win over sixth seed Natsuki Nidaira in the quarterfinal of the Orleans Open badminton tournament here on Friday.

Tanvi who had earned a win over second seed Supanida Katethong of Thailand in the first round when her opponent retired while trailing 18-21, 12-14, followed it up with an easy win over compatriot Anmol Kharb in the round-of-16.

Ayush Shetty bowed out of the men's singles, with a loss in the pre-quarterfinal.

The results: Men: (pre-quarterfinals): Yudai Okimoto (Jpn) bt Ayush Shetty 9-21, 21-18, 21-9.
Doubles (quarterfinals): Leo Rolly Carnando & Bagas Maulana (Ina) bt Hariharan Amasakarunan & M.R. Arjun 21-12, 22-20.
Women's singles (quarterfinals): Tanvi Sharma bt Natsuki Nidaira (Jpn) 21-14, 21-14.

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